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Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab and Israeli negotiators concluded their fifth round of bilateral talks in Washington on 30 April, Amman TV reported. Jordanian, Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian delegates reported no "progress" in the talks; nevertheless, they noted that negotiations would continue, according to Amman and Damascus radios. Meanwhile, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said the Arab parties to the talks would meet in Amman "shortly" to asses the latest round of talks. As for the Israelis, Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu characterized the talks as "businesslike," Jerusalem international radio reported.

Iran

Tehran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as missing from the newly independent former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, according to an AFP report citing THE EUROPEAN newspaper.

Afghanistan

Sebghatollah Mojaddedi chaired a session of the mojahedin council, Kabul radio reported. Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was among those in attendance. Meanwhile, Islamabad Radio reported "steps are being taken to restore Islamic values in daily life...women wearing Western dress are not being seen in the streets...and two former ministers, who were going to meet the new leader dressed Western-style, were told to go home and come back appropriately dressed." In another development, Rashid Dostam's Uzbek militia, Gelam Jam, has "looted official work places, shops, and homes of defenseless citizens," according to the clandestine Radio Message of Freedom.

India

The government officially recognized the mojahedin council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Delhi radio announced. In another development, the Indian High Commission in Colombo has lodged a "strong" protest with Sri Lankan authorities over remarks by the Sri Lankan president allegedly describing the Indian Peacekeeping Force as an "occupation army," Delhi radio reported.

Israel

Hungary signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to purchase an Israelli communications satellite, YEDI'OT AHARONOT disclosed. The cost of the satellite is estimated at $140 million.

Algeria

An Algiers court fined four national newspaper publishers between 1,000 and 1,500 dinars for "information distortion," Algiers radio reported.

Egypt

In a live Labor Day speech broadcast by Cairo radio, President Mubarak discussed the emerging "new world order" and his efforts to resolve the Lockerbie dispute. He additionally called on Israel to "meet the Arabs halfway" because "there is no alternative to these talks," and he reminded his listeners that had the Camp David accords been implemented no settlements would have been built in the occupied territories.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab Reportage on Progress of Negotiations

Jordanian, Palestinians on Session

JN2904064692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Muhammad al-Sharif dispatch from Washington]

[Text] The second session of talks between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations, which lasted until 0200 Jordan time, 1900 Washington time, focused on three major issues: Resuming discussions of the agenda, the ideas presented by the Jordanian delegation in the previous session on the issue of water, in addition to several points on energy affairs.

Following this meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, spoke to reporters:

[Begin al-Majali recording] We met this afternoon as part of the Jordanian-Israeli track, and we discussed the agenda proposed by the Israeli delegation and made several inquiries about some points. There was agreement on some issues, but there was also apparent disagreement on others. We will discuss this subject again tomorrow, God willing. Afterwards, we moved to the water issue, and began discussing it in more detail than on previous occasions. [end recording]

As for the Palestinian-Israeli track, following the conclusion of the session at 2000 yesterday, it was clear that there is a Palestinian concern to differentiate between the Palestinian proposal on holding general elections in the occupied territories to choose the councils of the self-government for the transitional phase and the Israeli proposal on holding municipal elections in the occupied territories—a proposal rejected by the Palestinian side.

Following the meeting, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, spoke to reporters:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] In our meeting today, the Israeli side made several remarks in reply to the remarks we had made earlier on the Israeli proposal for the transitional phase. For our part, we spoke today about the issue of elections, which we included in the transitional phase plan that we had presented to the Israeli side in the last round. There was some ambiguous points related to the issue of elections and mixing the issue of municipal elections, which has been greatly played up by the occupation authorities, with what we want during the transitional phase concerning the elections, part of which would be municipal elections. So we tried to differentiate between this latter issue and the occupation authorities' attempt to circumvent the negotiations process by giving high profile to the municipal elections, as a substitute or a separate issue. The memorandum we have given to the Israeli side addresses these points. There were no new proposals in the memorandum or letter they gave us yesterday, and we will reply to it in tomorrow's session. [end recording]

The Syrian and Lebanese delegations also resumed their meetings with the Israeli side.

Differences between the Arab and Israeli delegations over the duration of the fifth round of negotiations have not yet been settled. The American side is currently holding consultations with the participants to settle this issue, which should be resolved by Thursday [30 April].

Four-Way Arab Meeting on Talks

JN3004125892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Arab-Israeli peace talks continue in Washington today. Our correspondent in Washington says that within the next hours, it will be decided whether the negotiations will conclude today, as the Israeli side wants, or continue until 5 May, as the Arab delegations demand.

This subject was discussed by the four-party Arab coordination meeting held at the Syrian delegation's headquarters in Washington during which a general evaluation was made of what has been achieved by all tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Following the meeting, which included the Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations, the head of the Jordanian delegation Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali spoke to reporters on behalf of the four delegations. He said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] It is customary for the heads of the Arab delegations to the bilateral peace negotiations to meet at the beginning of the round, in the middle of it, and at the end. The head of the Syrian delegation invited us this evening to talk about what has happened on the various tracks. Each of us briefed the others on what has happened. We discussed the concluding date of this round. The Arab delegations still adhere to their position that this round should continue, as the sponsor told us, until 5 May. If the Israeli delegation remains until then, good, but if it does not, then it will be their unilateral decision not to remain until next week.

5th Round Ends; Delegates Comment

JN3004184092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Arab and Israeli negotiators have concluded their fifth round of bilateral talks in Washington. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that the Israeli delegation has decided to leave Washington.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording in English] This is the last session, and everybody will be going home. [end recording]

Following is a report by our correspondent Muhammad al-Sharif in the U.S. capital on the activities of the Arab delegations in Washington and the sessions of bilateral talks.

[Begin video recording] [Al-Sharif] As of 1700 Jordan time, 1000 Washington time, the negotiations between the Arab and Israeli delegations were as follows: The Jordanian delegation held three sessions with the Israeli delegation, in addition to a general meeting of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations and the Israeli delegation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, spoke about the outcome of the last session that concluded at 0200 [as heard] today. [cut shot]

[Al-Majali] We met this afternoon in the Jordanian-Israeli track, and we proposed an agenda to the Israeli side, to make it a joint agenda if they accept this. Afterwards, we explained all the items on the agenda and the reasons that made us arrange them in that manner. There was a lengthy discussion of these items, and there was an inquiry about some points that we had presented. There were some common points between the two agendas. We decided to pursue this tomorrow. At the same time, the members of the two delegations discussed the water issue from all angles.

[Al-Sharif] The talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are still focusing on the nature of the transitional phase, settlement activity, and human rights in the occupied territories, with noticeable Palestinian concern to differentiate between the elections of the transitional phase and the municipal elections being propagated by Israel.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I have nothing important to tell you now. We presented today several memoranda on human rights violations in the occupied areas. We are always eager to remind the negotiating Israeli team of human rights violations, because we think that the negotiating process should proceed in a relaxed atmosphere and there should be a feeling that everything is proceeding naturally. Also, at the end of the session, we proposed a joint agenda, and we hope that a joint agenda will be agreed upon in the future. Also, the Israeli delegation had earlier proposed a joint agenda. Each side will study both proposals, and we will see if it is possible to have a joint agenda approved by both sides. All that I can say is that, so far, there is no progress. The only progress I can talk about is that we are still at the negotiating table.

[Al-Sharif] As for the Syrian track, Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the delegation, asserted that the Syrian position at the talks is positive, but the Israelis have not presented any ideas that help achieve progress.

[Al-'Allaf] Regrettably, there has been no similar position expressed by the Israeli delegation in this round, just like other rounds.

[Al-Sharif] In the Lebanese-Israeli track, negotiations focused on the current situation in southern Lebanon and turned into Israeli threats against the Lebanese side.

The Arab delegations met last night at the Syrian place of residence to coordinate Arab stands during the negotiations. The meeting ended at 0500 Jordan time, 2200 Washington time. [end video recording]

Palestinians Issue 'Official Protest'

JN3004123192 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Apr 92 p 17

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Amman have said that the negotiating Palestinian delegation in Washington has presented an official protest to the Israeli side against Yitzhaq Shamir's statements and participation in the inauguration of a new settlement in the northern part of the occupied West Bank.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that during the past two days of talks, the Palestinian delegation focused on the importance of stopping settlement activity. It rejected a plan presented by Israeli because it obstructs any progress toward substantive issues, violates the terms of reference—"the letter of invitation," and is not a suitable basis for negotiation.

Based on a report from Washington, the sources added that the Israelis presented a number of ideas on phased measures over a certain period of time and on giving the Palestinians the administration of hospitals rather than discussing basic issues such as the transitional stage, the transfer of authority, holding legislative elections, implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention, prisoners, and the confiscation of land.

The sources said that the Palestinian side strongly defended its draft plan on the transitional period, focusing on the need to hold elections for a central legislative authority. It refused to consider the municipal elections an alternative to the legislative elections and refuted the Israeli plan, which the Palestinian delegation described as "nothing more than general ideas for coexistence," because it violates the clauses of the invitation and terms of reference and keeps the current martial laws in the hands of the occupation authorities even during the transitional period.

On coordination among the Arab delegations, the sources said: Several coordination sessions were held in which it was agreed to push the negotiations forward, continue the fifth round of talks for another two weeks, and refuse a new round in Rome prior to the Israeli elections next June and prior to an assessment of the talks by the Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian foreign ministers, which they will make in Amman following the end of the current Washington round of talks.

Referring to the meeting held by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, Anis al-Qasim, and Ghassan al-Khatib with U.S. State Department officials, the sources said: The Americans advised the Palestinians not to give the impression that they reject progress, and to discuss what the Israelis propose and build on it instead of rejecting it in part and parcel; that is, to discuss the ideas and plans which represent the minimum Palestinian desires in order to upgrade them.

The Americans also advised the Palestinians not to reject the municipal elections idea, but to develop it by including the general elections. The sources, however, did not define the Palestinian stance toward the U.S. advice, saying only that everything is subject to study and scrutiny.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR: We are concerned with opening a channel for direct dialogue with the Americans in order to push the United States toward pressuring Israel on the issues of settlements and respect for human rights, and to expose the Israeli proposal on municipal elections, considering it a blow to the negotiations process.

The sources explained: We requested the U.S. Administration to be neutral and to give the experts and advisers in the Palestinian delegation the legal right to explain some stances toward certain issues as is done by the Israelis. We also demanded that Israel's violation of the Palestinian human rights be officially negotiated by the two sides as two equal parties.

The Palestinian sources believe that the Israeli side is showing no enthusiasm toward reaching a joint agenda by attempting to present alternative ideas based on the discussion of various issues, starting with the municipalities and hospitals—"a plan to dilute the negotiatory issues."

Quadripartite Meeting in Amman Planned

TA3004130892 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Muhammad Dalbah]

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman, has said that a quadripartite meeting will be held shortly in Amman, involving Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO. The parties will assess the latest round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, which is expected to end this week. She said the meeting, which will be held at the foreign ministers' level, will also discuss the upcoming round of negotiations, which the United States has said will be convened in Rome, the date of which has not yet been set.

At a meeting with Arab newsmen in Washington yesterday, 'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian delegation and the PLO are trying to convene a seven-member Arab meeting involving the four Arab parties taking part in the bilateral negotiations, as well as Egypt and representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, to discuss an action plan for the multilateral working meetings, which are expected to begin in a number of capitals as of 11 May.

Abolition of Israeli Decrees Demanded

TA3004134592 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 30 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Washington—In a document delivered to the Israeli delegation, the Palestinian delegation officially demanded the abolition of a series of Israeli military decrees issued since 1967. These are Military Decree No. 2, which grants authority to the Israeli military governor to legislate, enact laws, and issue decrees; Military Decree No. 92 relating to waters and Israel's control over them; and Military Decree No. 291, which prohibited the registration of land in the West Bank. The Palestinian delegation also demanded the abolition of the authorities' control over the surveying of land in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Palestinian delegation stressed in its document that the opening of these files [as published] and the abolition of military decrees are necessary preparatory steps for holding legislative elections in the occupied territories.

Faysal al-Husayni on Proceedings

PM0105103992 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 May 92 p 26

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, "member" of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Ajjaj] We ask specifically: What has been achieved at the four rounds of bilateral talks with Israel, in view of the growing Palestinian opposition and the demand for an end to participation in these negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Several important things have actually been achieved. In Madrid we gave a clear reply to the unjust claim launched early this century that Palestine is a land without a people and should be given to a people without a land. And although the entire world supported us against that claim, the United States and Israel supported it. But in Madrid that claim collapsed forever. After all those years Shamir was forced to sit down in front of a representative of a people whose existence he had not acknowledged. Also for the first time the Palestinian people were represented itself by a clear and independent delegation acceptable to everyone and rejected by no one. Now—through the Palestinian performance, our awareness of our role and boundaries, which the PLO has understood brilliantly, and the Palestinian leadership's understanding of the conflicting interests—we have managed to work toward a crack in U.S.-Israeli ties. We must not at all belittle the the loan guarantees subject, and the escalation, cessation, or settlement of that conflict depend on our participation in the bilateral negotiations. That dispute would be settled the minute the peace process stopped.

['Ajjaj] Can much reliance be placed on this dispute over the guarantees issue?

[Al-Husayni] Why not? But the matter requires action and efforts, and requires that we perform well and muster all the forces that can help to halt settlement building, not only at the negotiating table, but on the international and Arab scene as well. We must not allow things to proceed automatically or turn our backs on them pending the continuation of the conflict. Nothing will happen unless we make efforts. Are we not part of the political equation in the region? Baker told Congress: We are not granting these guarantees because they obstruct the peace process. So if we stop the peace process, why should they stop the guarantees?

['Ajjaj] That does not negate the fact that there is a general Palestinian view calling for patience and saying you should wait for another opportunity to participate in peace negotiations under better circumstances and on better terms.

[Al-Husayni] Politics is based on interests, not love and hatred. And the interests are not mine alone. But I have to understand others' interests and the contradiction between these interests. It is not a matter of satisfying my personal feelings. I wonder: What gains will we make if we withdraw from the negotiations? If there are gains, let us withdraw today and not wait until tomorrow. And if there are losses. [sentence as published] So there is no need for such a position, and we must ask about the alternative in the event of withdrawal. Some people mistakenly believe that our presence at the negotiating table is an obstruction to struggle—which is untrue. We can negotiate and struggle at the same time. We can have a blazing field front while we are there at the negotiating table. Israel itself is doing that. Israel does not go to a round of the negotiations before bombarding southern Lebanon. And its delegation does not sit down at the negotiating table before orders to expel Palestinians are issued. Why do we not do the same thing? What prevents us from carrying out struggle operations while heading for the negotiations? That is an autocratic mentality. It believes that if it engages in negotiations it will not be able to maintain struggle! Israel is trying to impose its will, so why do we not try to impose ours? Why would assume that we will submit to Israel's will?

['Ajjaj] In the light of what happened at the Moscow multilateral talks, do you believe that the Palestinian side will withdraw if its demands concerning a halt to settlement building are not met?

[Al-Husayni] At the Moscow multilateral talks we presented our position as follows: We refuse to go to Moscow under the so-called Madrid formula, and we succeeded in invalidating this formula. We will go to the multilateral talks with an integrated Palestinian delegation from both inside and outside [the occupied territories]. Second, nothing will be achieved in the peace process unless settlement building is halted and progress made in the bilateral talks. This is what we said and always say. We did not say that if no progress is achieved we will withdraw. We believe that the process as a whole will be futile and will bear no fruit if settlement building continues. As for when we should decide to withdraw, we should not do that in the first place, nor should we link it to a deadline or actions we cannot control. Withdrawal is an independent Palestinian decision and will not be decided upon in response to an action carried out by Israel when it wants us to withdraw.

['Ajjaj] But some people doubt the Palestinians' participation in the upcoming round of negotiations in Washington.

[Al-Husayni] The matter concerning the upcoming round of negotiations has been settled. We will go there to present our position and to expose the Israeli position before world public opinion. We are not prepared to offer Shamir a free gift before the elections.

['Ajjaj] What is your view of the election battle in Israel, what are the Labor Party's chances of success, and what is the effect of that on the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] It seems that the Labor Party—according to the polls—is making important strides and achieving tangible success. But the fact remains that such polls cannot be relied on. What concerns us is that several changes occurred in the Labor Party at its recent conference. It presented a more advanced position toward the Palestinian people and their rights. They announced that in the event of their assumption of power they would implement the transitional phase within the specified schedule. Furthermore, the Labor Party raises the question of withdrawal from a security angle—which we can discuss and implement. Despite its difficulty, the matter differs from the position of the Likud, which raises the issue on a religious and historical basis. Thus it is difficult to arrive at a joint formula between us and them. That, of course, does not mean that the matter will be easy if the Labor Party assumes power. In addition, it is noted that although Rabin was elected leader of the party—with all the right-wing tendency he represents—the party actually chose him to represent it and to give priority in the Knesset elections to left-wing elements that have advanced views on the Palestinian issue.

['Ajjaj] What are the points of disagreement between the Palestinian view and Israeli view on autonomy and the transitional phase?

[Al-Husayni] We are talking about a transitional phase during which power is transferred from the Israeli occupation to the Palestinians. That power should include people and land within the geographical boundaries of the occupied areas in preparation for a final solution, which we want to lead to the establishment of the state of Palestine. As for the Israelis—according to the Likud's thinking—they are calling for autonomy for the inhabitants in isolation from the land and the geographical area. They are seeking just a transitional phase during which some Palestinians would assume posts within the civilian administration belonging to the Israeli military

authorities, with autonomy as the final form of government. Whereas what we want is a transitional phase, they want it as a final solution.

['Ajjaj] The idea of a confederation with Jordan was raised suddenly and then subsided suddenly. What is the truth?

[Al-Husayni] The truth of the matter is that the confederation issue was produced by the press and media, which made out as though it was going to be announced the following day. All that happened was a discussion of the Palestinian and Jordanian sides' views on the announcement of a confederation in the future and on numerous other issues like the relationship between the two parties to the confederation, powers, duties, rights, and the Palestinians living in the East Bank: Are they Palestinians living in Jordan or are they Jordanians? Where should they exercise their right to vote? Discussions revolved around a pivotal issue: What is the nature of the confederation expected to be announced after liberation?

['Ajjaj] In the light of the Beirut coordination meeting, how do you view Arab coordination among the four Arab states participating in the bilateral negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] We must admit that the coordination process has, regrettably, come rather late. However, it has started to proceed well in the light of the discussions conducted at the Beirut meeting. And we hope that it will be a new opening for a more serious and conscious coordination.

Syria's al-'Allaf Denies 'Progress'

JN3004205892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Washington—Chief Syrian Arab Delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf has denied that the fifth round of the Middle East peace talks, which concluded today, made any progress.

In reply to reporters' questions at the end of today's final meeting, al-'Allaf added that during the talks with the Syrian delegation the Israeli side had not expressed any willingness to discuss practical steps to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to honor the principle of trading land for peace, on which the peace process is based. The Israeli side, he noted, was intent during the meetings on unleashing fabrications and falsehoods depicting Israel as a victim—a matter that prompted the Syrian delegation to respond to these fabrications firmly and refute them.

When asked whether this means that the peace talks have reached a dead end, al-'Allaf said: We believe that the Israelis have thus far continued to show that their acts are being influenced by Israeli elections. They have continued to lay obstacles in the way of the peace process.

Al-'Allaf is scheduled to hold a news conference later today, during which he will review what has transpired during the round of talks that concluded today after four days.

Israeli-Source Reports on Peace Talks

Arabs Said To Reject 'Compromise'

TA3004191292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The Arab delegations to the peace talks have rejected the Israeli compromise offer regarding the participation of the Palestinian diaspora in the multilateral talks, which are to begin in two weeks. This was revealed by the Americans after an initial examination of reactions to the offer. The Israeli threat not to take part in the discussions of some of the regional committees is, therefore, still in force. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu—Talks 'Businesslike'

TA0105045192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] In Washington, the fifth round of bilateral talks between Israel and Arab representatives has ended. The next round of talks is to be held in Rome next month prior to the Israeli elections. Connie Lon reports from Washington:

Israel's Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says this is the first series of businesslike meetings since the talks began at Madrid. The Israelis are much more optimistic in public than are the Arab delegates, but the Israeli official said the Arabs may have to downplay their assessments in public for their listeners back home.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I am insistent and adamant that what is said on the outside does not correspond very well to what is taking place on the inside, and I am trying to present the two in the most coherent fashion that I can. But we can do away with this differences of views by simply having the inside take predominance. Let's just have these talks. [end recording]

Binyamin Netanyahu also said the Israelis offered to spend the weekend in Washington and negotiate Saturday night and Sunday. Since the Arabs rejected that, Israel hopes they will agree to resume talks in Rome in one week's time.

In the meantime, Israel says the greatest progress of the week took place in the talks with the Palestinians. Binyamin Netanyahu also said talks with Jordan were very productive and very smooth. But in public, the Jordanians disagree; they claim the parties continue to dwell on procedure. The Palestinians also continue their public criticism. They have not totally rejected Israel's proposal to run their hospitals and hold municipal elections, but the Palestinians say the step-by-step proposals suggest they cannot handle democracy and self-rule all at once and can only deal with it one step at a

time. The Israelis say they are proposing steps which can take place in the near future while the bigger issues take more time to work out.

'Technical Progress Only'

TA0105062192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 May 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Although the Arab delegations did not reject outright the Israeli proposal for another round of talks next month before the Israeli elections, it is as yet unclear whether another gathering before 23 May will be possible. The United States does not intend to intervene in the question of the next round's date, and the solution lies solely in the hands of Israel and the Arabs, who are liable to object to convening before the elections.

As for the content of the talks, the Israeli delegations have done all they could to present the talks in an optimistic light, although reports reflect technical progress only. Although the atmosphere is more congenial and the parties have agreed to exchange papers, their positions have not shifted an inch. Although the Palestinians rejected the Israeli offer to hold municipal elections in the territories, Israel has not withdrawn the proposal, and it will raise it again in the next rounds.

As for the multilateral negotiations, Foreign Minister David Levi reached an agreement in principle in Lisbon yesterday concerning the inclusion of Europe in the arms control committee. This issue, however, is not closed. Israel's consent to include Europe in that committee stems from economic factors, among others. The EC made it unequivocally plain that crisis over its participation in the committee would dash Israel's chances of obtaining economic privileges in trade with Europe. These privileges will be discussed in the Israel-Europe cooperation council, which is due to convene on the very same day on which the arms control committee is slated to meet.

Proposals to Palestinians, Jordanians

TA0105075792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 May 92 p 2

[Report by Rami Tal in Washington and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] "It was the first round of businesslike talks since the Madrid conference," Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday in summing up the fourth round of bilateral talks in Washington.

"Finally, there was a concrete approach to concrete proposals," Netanyahu said. He said that a large part of the progress achieved was due to the U.S. decision not to intervene in the negotiations.

According to details disclosed by sources in Washington it appears that the Israeli proposal for municipal elections in the territories refers only to a restricted geographic area, probably the Judaea region. Israeli sources stress that it refers to "experimental elections," which if successful will be expanded to other areas.

In reference to the Jordanian track, the Israeli spokesmen said that there are in fact already discussions on an agreed framework for a peace treaty. "In these discussions there is an excellent atmosphere," the Israelis said.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that the Israeli document presented to the Jordanians on cooperation between the two countries, includes not only exploitation of the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers, but also a long series of joint projects, including desalination, agricultural and industrial cooperation in the 'Arava, joint exploitation of Dead Sea resources, etc.

In the negotiations with Syria, there is still no real progress, and even the concrete proposals did not help to achieve a breakthrough, but the Israeli spokesmen claim that the very fact that documents have finally been exchanged between the delegations points to progress.

In yesterday's talks with the Palestinians, Israel responded negatively to the Palestinian demand to start discussions on lands, water, urban planning, and access to public records. The Palestinians reiterated yesterday that Israel is using delaying tactics. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Council Resolutions on Regional Issues

NC3004175992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—The Arab League Council has stressed the need to support the stands of the Arab parties directly concerned with the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict in all stages of the peace process and to back them in the political, information, and all other fields in order to achieve the desired just peace.

In its resolutions and recommendations issued today at the end of the two-day Arab foreign ministers meetings, the Council emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest degree of inter-Arab coordination as one of the most important guarantees for achieving a unified Arab stand in reaching a comprehensive and just peace based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Council demanded complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and rejected Israel's attempts to circumvent the international legitimacy resolutions.

The Council condemned Israel's arbitrary practices, which violate international legitimacy and aim to change the nature of the occupied Arab territories by increasing settlement.

The Council appealed to international and regional organizations, governments, and world public opinion to exercise maximum efforts to halt the settlement process; to end to the Israeli occupation authorities' violations and acts of repression, expulsion, and deportation in the occupied Arab territories; and to ask Israel to respond positively to the peace efforts and thereby ensure successful negotiations.

The Council decided to ask the Arab League secretary general to pursue his Arab contacts in maintenance of efforts to coordinate Arab stands.

The Council addressed a salutation of reverence and appreciation to the Palestinian people, founders of the gallant Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories. The Council asked the Arab countries to continue their material and moral support to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and maintain their intifadah until their legitimate goals are accomplished.

The Council condemned the escalating, ferocious campaign of aggression by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories against the Palestinian people and their land, sanctities, and rights.

In its resolutions and recommendations, the Council asked the Security Council to intervene and to end immediately these inhuman and arbitrary measures and to force the occupation authorities to respect international charters and conventions on human rights, especially the 1949 Geneva Convention, and to ensure protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The Council appealed to friendly countries and to international and regional organizations to use their influence to stop the crimes of the Israeli occupation authorities.

The Council decided to pursue efforts at various levels to put an end to Jewish emigration—the purpose of which is to settle immigrants in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories—because this emigration endangers Arab rights and contradicts the ongoing international peace efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Council urged member-countries to intensify their contacts with all parties connected with the issue of emigration, particularly the countries regarded as the source of the emigration, and with the Security Council's permanent member-states and international groups to stop this emigration.

The Arab League Council decided to ask the League Secretariat to pursue its contacts with the European side on convening the Arab-European dialogue committees in accordance with the resolutions of the recent Arab-European ministerial conference.

The Council also asked the Arab League secretary general to call a meeting of the Arab committee for Arab-European dialogue to discuss the outcome of the meetings of the dialogue's working committees with a view to endorsing a unified Arab stand achieving Arab interests and to look into the fiscal situation of the feasibility studies fund of the Arab-European dialogue committee.

With regard to Arab-African relations and progress in Arab-African cooperation, the League Council asserted the importance of boosting Arab-African cooperation and activating the work of its apparatus, as well as the need to use the available scientific means to develop this cooperation in light of current developments and events.

The Council noted the need to convene the permanent committee on Arab-African cooperation this year and to remove the obstacles blocking progress.

The Council asserted its support for the struggle of the African national liberation movements in South Africa seeking a solution that will preserve the African majority's rights and achieve equality and justice for all South African citizens and secure for them a nonracial democratic society in a united state.

The Council announced its support for the continuation of international sanctions against South Africa until the apartheid policy is fully eradicated and the legitimate rights of all citizens of South Africa to freedom and complete equality are established.

The Council condemned the continuing military and nuclear cooperation between the Pretoria regime and Israel, and the threat this cooperation poses to security and peace in the region and the world.

The Council emphasized the important role of the Arab technical aid fund for African countries in supporting Arab-African cooperation, and appealed to Arab countries to pay their shares in the fund's budget and in the financial aid endorsed at the Amman summit in 1987 so that the fund may pay its debts.

The Council asked the Secretariat to continue returning the fund's assets when its fiscal conditions permit so that the fund may be able to pursue its plans and programs in supporting Arab-African cooperation.

With regard to cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations, the League Council endorsed the clause of cooperation between them as a permanent topic on the League's agenda.

The Council asked the member-countries and specialized Arab organizations to step up their efforts and to coordinate to implement the programs of cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations.

The Council decided to entrust the League Secretariat with pursuing its efforts to bolster cooperation with the United Nations and to secure the necessary means to make the high-level regional childhood meeting a success in implemention of the UN General Assembly resolution.

The Council asked the League member-states to submit their proposals on comprehensive pan-Arab security to the Secretariat. The Council decided to ask the Secretariat to follow up this project, to devise a comprehensive study on pan-Arab security in light of the member-states' proposals, and to forward their assessment on the issue to the Council in its next (?session).

Concerning completing construction of the Arab League's branch headquarters in Tunis, the Council asked the League's secretary general to continue his efforts with the member-countries to urge them to pay their contributions to the construction budget for the Tunis headquarters and to forward a report on the outcome of his contacts and his assessment to the member-countries in the next three months.

The Council asked the League secretary general to contact Arab banking institutions to specify arrangements and conditions of a loan to build this center and to determine the cost of completing it.

The Arab League Council ended its two-day meetings, held at the foreign ministers level, late last night.

Iraqi Minister Comments on Arabs' Libya Policy

JN3004201292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has exposed the positions of the Arab states, which lined up on the side of the anti-Iraq U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and which continued to support it by maintaining the unfair economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

In remarks made during a debate on the Libyan crisis at an Arab League Council meeting [in Cairo], the foreign minister added that the Arab traitors who allied themselves with the foreigners to facilitate the aggression and to confer an Arab identity on the blockade, which is a hateful foreign blockade reflecting hatred for Arabism and Islam, are the very same people who are currently lining up to impose a blockade on Libya. He went on to say that those who claimed that their cooperation with foreigners to hit Baghdad, the city of Arabs and Islam, was aimed at liberating those who they named in the aftermath of the incidents which took place on 2 August 1990, are now maintaining a cowardly silence over Iran's consummation of its occupation of Abu Musa Island and also over the blockade imposed on fraternal Libya. Not only this, they are even urging that more harm be inflicted on the Iraqi people with their ceaseless calls for maintaining the blockade imposed on them to kill their children, elderly, and women by denying them access to food and medicine.

The minister affirmed that this lineup by Arab traitors on the side of the United States and its allies in the aggression—by those who served as lackeys for the United States and Zionism—who continued to show this strong support for the United States and its allies for the same lowly purposes, are displaying a flagrant departure from all the values cherished by honorable Arabs. Besides, this reflects submission to the will of the nation's enemies meant to appease their masters, who want to suffocate and starve a fraternal Arab people.

The minister indicated that one of the initial signs showing the determination of the United States, at the urging of Zionism, to maintain the aggression and impose hegemony on the Arab states, is its determination to maintain the economic blockade it imposed on Iraq, even though the latter implemented the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The foreign minister asked that the Arab states rid themselves of the shackles of this unfair blockade, now that the reasons for its imposition have been removed. Otherwise, he noted, the convoys of the blockade martyrs from among Iraqi children, women, and elderly will cause history to curse all those who worked and are working to maintain the blockade—a matter which would cause the falling of more innocent martyrs. For example, he noted that there was an increase of 74,133 infant deaths over the past seven months.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn pointed out that now that the Arab League Council is meeting, we must remember all that has befallen Iraq, namely, the aggression of the aggressors and the evil of evildoers. After its aggression on Iraq, he maintained, the United States is directing its aggression toward fraternal Libya by imposing an unfair air and weapons embargo, after it had directed the Security Council to pass a resolution imposing these sanctions on an Arab League member state that has the right to ask the Arab League members to comply with its charters and demand a show of solidarity and protection from this aggression as well. Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn said, however, we have seen that some Arab states have hastened to implement the unfair Security Council resolution against it. By so doing, he said, they have shown their alliance to the United States in its premeditated aggression on the Libyan Arab people, just as they did when they joined the U.S.- Atlantic-Zionist alliance in the outrageous anti-Iraq aggression.

The minister reiterated that these anti-Libya resolutions would not have been passed had not the aggressors sounded the true desires of some countries of the region regarding fraternal Libya. He warned that the United States, after its treacherous aggression against Iraq, along with its allies, after its aggression on Libya, and through the blockade it has imposed, will continue to act aggressive toward Arab states. It will, he maintained, deal separately with each state to hit each of them if the Arab state of affairs, which is marked by division, fragmentation, continued absence of Arab solidarity, and failure to heed the dangers entailed in the imbalance of power between big powers, is maintained, and if America's Arabs continue to conduct themselves in this sinful manner and maintain their alliance to the Arabs' enemies to hit their brothers.

The minister added: We would like to say, out of a clear understanding of the peoples' potential, that continued betrayal, double dealing, and back stabbing will infuriate the nation's sons in each Arab state and cause them to unleash inevitable national and pan-Arab passions against those responsible for this bad state of affairs.

In his remarks, the minister touched on the state of affairs plaguing the Arab League, saying: If it fails to pursue a pan-Arab policy and take pan-Arab positions, if it fails to show faith in the need to fight injustice and falsehood, and if those who meet under its canopy fail to demonstrate such sentiments, the Arab League will be nothing but a bogus institution that in no conceivable way reflects the honorable Arab willpower and the Arab people's will to safeguard their sovereignty, independence, and security.

Concluding his remarks, the foreign minister said: Now that Libya's favorable response and just position have become clear, we see the need for supporting it, demonstrating solidarity with it, and rejecting the unfair resolutions passed against it.

It is to be recalled that the foreign minister headed the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the 97th session of the Arab League Council held on 28-30 April.

Jordanian Foreign Minister on Arab League Talks

JN3004142992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Arab League Council has concluded its meetings in Cairo during which it discussed a number of issues concerning the Arab nation.

Our radio held an interview today with [Jordanian] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir who spoke about the results of these meetings. He said:

[Begin recording] The meeting was a continuation and a resumption of the previous meetings of the 97th regular session. The emphasis was on a number of issues concerning the nation in general, particularly the current Libyan crisis with Britain, the United States, and France. There was some concentration on this subject and a statement was made in this regard stating that the seven-member committee, formed during the previous extraordinary meeting, will resume its duties by trying to reach a compromise and peaceful settlement between Libya and the Western countries. This subject has consumed most of the time of the meetings over the past two days. The Arab ministers also tackled a number of issues of concern to the nation at present and adopted appropriate resolutions in their regard. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Majid Briefs Ambassadors on Statement

NC3004210892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1156 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today summoned the ambassadors of the United States, France, and Britain in Cairo and notified them of the statement issued by the Arab League Council last night regarding the crisis between Libya and the West.

Following the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that he had discussed with the ambassadors the contents of the statement, developments in this problem, and the ongoing efforts to resolve it peacefully. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the ambassadors will send the text of the statement to the foreign ministries of the three countries.

British Ambassador Christopher Long stated that he will send the statement to the British Government, which will then respond to it.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Travel of PLO Chairman 'Arafat

Stops Over in Cairo

NC3004094592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat made a stopover in Cairo this morning on his way from Tunis to Amman.

Dr. Ahmad Salamah, minister of state for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, and Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo, welcomed 'Arafat at the airport.

Telephones Mubarak, Departs

NC3004171392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who landed at cairo Airport this morning en route to Yemen.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1119 GMT on 30 April reports: "Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has departed Cairo for Amman after a two-hour stopover at the airport."]

Arrives in Sanaa; Meets President

JN3004204492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to meet with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Yemeni news agency cited 'Arafat as saying that he will discuss with President 'Ali 'Abdallah the Palestine question and all the dangers and challenges currently facing the Arab nation.

PLO To Reformulate Military Presence in Lebanon

NC0105091892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] A Palestinian source has informed the AL-HAYAH newspaper that the PLO has summoned a large number of its military cadres in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps and the official in charge of al-Rashidiyah camp to Tunisia.

The aim is to discuss and formulate a new concept of the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon. The new concept will be based on the PLO's view of its current relationship with the Lebanese Government.

Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No 82

LD3004214492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Call No. 82 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah, the voice of the PLO. Communique No. 82, the Martyrs of 'Ayun Qar Call.

O masses of our brave people, O masses of the valiant intifadah, O people of jihad and defiance. Through your blessed intifadah that begins today its 54th month, and inside the occupied land, the essential arena of the conflict, you proved to the whole world your absolute rejection of coexistence with the occupation. Sparking the intifadah was in itself a decision of the people to reject the occupation. This decision will not be relinquished; the intifadah will continue until the realization of our national goals and the achievement of our absolute rights: the right to return to the homeland, self-determination, and the edification of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Israeli enemy, spiteful of everything that is human, the enemy of freedom and sun, is trying to liquidate the blessed intifadah through the physical liquidation of our sons from the strike forces. It confronts the intifadah through the premeditated killing of the largest number of the sons of our people. [passage omitted]

We appeal to the sons of our people and national and humanitarian bodies to confront the campaign of physical liquidation launched by the enemy against the defenseless sons of our people, and to expose the practices of Zionist oppression. [passage omitted]

In an attempt by the rancorous enemy to deal a blow to your glorious intifadah, the enemy has resorted to a savage campaign through his broadcasting organs to propagate fabricated statements hatched in dens of his intelligence and has broadcast fabricated and misleading rumors within the framework of a planned propaganda campaign aimed at dealing a blow to the morale of our people and casting doubts about its struggle. Thus, the statement, which has been broadcast by the enemy's radio station and which was attributed to the Fatah movement is merely another chapter in the rabid campaign. The rumors propagated by the enemy's organs asserting that a number of wanted persons have given themselves up, describing their act as a prelude to the end of the intifadah, are merely lies. If a very small number of wanted persons have, however, given themselves up to the [Israeli] authorities, they have done so because they were aware that the authorities have nothing with which to prove their guilt and that there thus was no need for them to be fugitives. [passage omitted]

The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] warns of these abnormal practices against our workers and will hold accountable anyone who is tempted to tamper with workers' rights. The UNLI calls on owners of factories, institutions, and employers, from among our people, to respect the rights of workers and to enable the workers to elect their representatives inside their workplaces in a free, democratic, manner. [passage omitted]

The UNLI appeals to the international community and international economic institutions to support productive institutions and projects which absorb the largest number of the unemployed. [passage omitted]

The enemy is trying to sabotage the education process, and therefore to keep the latter strong and continuous is part of our national struggle. The UNLI condemns the phenomenon of violence in solving problems between the sons of our one people; it condemns the attempt to dress up such practices in national or religious garb. The UNLI reminds all that our struggle experiment has taught us that most of the problems are triggered or manipulated by the enemy's hidden or apparent fingers in an attempt to deepen the internal contradictions among the sons of the one people so that we will be preoccupied and forget about the enemy and his base plans which target all our people and homeland. Therefore, the UNLI calls on everyone and on the national and Islamic forces to close ranks and to direct all efforts and energies against the central apparent enemy, especially among the strugglers who are to be found in all fields and positions.

The leadership calls for putting an end to all excesses, because we will regard all those who arouse sedition as individuals who have infiltrated the ranks of the strugglers, and consequently we will deal with them as we deal with enemy agents. It has been recently noticed that some burglaries, armed robberies, and assaults in the street against women and girls took place. The UNLI calls on all cadres, establishments, and reform committees to pursue those committing such crimes, to expose them, and to severely punish them. Such acts are only committed by those who are manipulated by the hand of the occupation authority, which seeks to disturb the internal Palestinian security.

O masses of our heroic people, the UNLI denounces in your name the blockade imposed on the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah and it believes that this blockade constitutes a link in the chain of measures being led by the United States that targets the entire Arab nation. It aims to deal with Arab and Islamic states individually for not complying with and not being committed to this unjust blockade against a fraternal Arab people.

The UNLI praises the sons of our people in the occupied Gaza Strip who are every day teaching the enemy lessons in sacrifice and redemption. The UNLI also addresses a greeting to the strugglers and mujahidin in the towns, villages, and return ['awdah] camps in the revolutionary Strip, and it praises highly their daily struggles and sacrifices in confronting the enemy and the hordes of its settlers.

The UNLI warns of tendentious communiques issued in the name of the Fatah movement, the strike forces, in the region of the villages northwest of Jerusalem which seek to cause damage to the strugglers, and it considers these suspicious communiques an attempt at betrayal, causing trouble, and distorting the picture of the strugglers. It warns those responsible for such practices, and the UNLI calls for the implementation of the following activities:

It calls on [word indistinct] to form committees in all areas to follow up and organize work to help our detained and imprisoned brave heroes in the enemy's prisons, and God will make whoever supports Him victorious.

1. Honoring workers on International Labor Day on 1 May, and the holding of seminars by workers unions to study the workers conditions and deal with their problems and issues.

2. Celebrating the occasion of international free press day, which takes place on 3 May. This explains the restrictions which the occupation exercises on our local press, it exposes the violations of journalists' rights, it expresses solidarity with the exiled and detained journalists, and [word indistinct] martyred journalists.

3. Considering 5 May to be a day of solidarity with the Libyan people, and a strike is declared for institutions, shops, and services for 30 minutes, from 1030 to 1100, during which traffic will come to a halt in the occupied territories.

4. A comprehensive strike on 9 May on the anniversary of the intifadah entering its 45th month.

5. 15 May, the anniversary of usurping Palestine, is a confrontation day during which Palestinian flags are hoisted over the roofs of houses.

6. A comprehensive strike on 20 May on the anniversary of the massacre at 'Uyun Qarah [words indistinct] against Palestinian workers. During this day black flags are to be hoisted over the roofs of houses.

7. 25 May is a solidarity day with the owners of the confiscated lands, and activities against settlements and the settlers.

8. 27 May is a solidarity day with Palestinian detainees.

Algeria

Algiers Recognizes New Afghan Government

LD3004224992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] A communique issued by the Algerian Foreign Ministry and received by APS said that Algeria has officially notified the new Afghan authorities today that Algeria has recognized the Islamic republic of Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Denies Government Reshuffle Set

NC3004193592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi has lauded Egyptian-Algerian relations, noting that the current relations between the two countries have overcome all obstacles of the past.

In statements published in this evening's edition of the AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper, he said that the Algerian leadership and people appreciate Egypt's efforts to solve many Arab issues, the foremost of which is the Libyan-Western (?issue) and the Middle East problem. He added: We also appreciate the Egyptian leadership's courageous stand in supporting the Algerian people during the recent events in our country.

Commenting on the current situation in Algeria, he affirmed that the situation has become quiet and stable and that the Algerian people are rallying around the Algerian leadership.

He denied that the Algerian leadership [intends] to expedite a government reshuffle affecting Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali. He said that Ghozali will remain prime minister to implement the reform program, and he noted untrue reports of differences between members of the Algerian leadership and Ghozali's government, saying that such reports are baseless.

Brahimi rejected the Algerian opposition parties' call for a substantial change in the Algerian regime and for holding elections soon. He said that the current circumstances do not permit such changes or holding elections but that perhaps the Algerian leadership may think of holding [elections] late this year or early next year.

Commenting on the release of more detainees in Algeria, he stated that the Algerian leadership is (?willing) to gradually release a number of detainees in the Israeli [as received] prisons.

He noted the Algerian leadership's intention to open a new page with various party leaders to extricate Algeria from the situation it has reached over the past months.

Press Fined for 'Information Distortion'

LD3004040592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Judicial sources reported yesterday that an Algiers court sentenced four national newspaper publishers to fines totaling between 1,000 and 1,500 Algerian dinars in cases related to information distortion.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech Addresses Peace Process, Lockerbie

NC3004135592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0951 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Labor Day speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Railway Club in Cairo on 30 April—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Brother citizens: The world has witnessed drastic and interesting changes since we met last year. These changes must certainly leave their mark on the history of the world at this critical stage in which the international community is trying to settle situations resulting from the two world wars and the cold war that followed. It is laying the foundation for a new world order which is in accordance with developments affecting the new socioeconomic situation. There were once two superpowers. Now there is only one and the entire world supports it, including the former Soviet Union. It is now one power. [applause] In the past, some states used to play the well-known game; they would swear at one power and turn to the other for protection. In the present situation who will you swear at and who will give you protection? The best policy, therefore, is to be logical.

It is still too early to make a comprehensive and objective assessment of these changes and subsequent developments because the world situation is not yet stable. You can see that the socialist countries, the countries which broke away from the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia are still encountering numerous problems. The international situation has not stabilized. I believe that many developments are going to affect the international situation. We can, however, determine the basic features marking the emerging new world order. Such a process does not come out of a vacuum; it is the outcome of interrelated and complex factors in which the past, the present, and the future interrelate. History is a continuous chain of connected links rather than an accumulation of random and arbitrary events.

It can be said that one of the positive features of this new world order is the principle of finding peaceful solutions to disputes and narrowing the scope of the use of force. If this is actually achieved, it will enable humanity to avert the threat of a destructive war and to dedicate a larger portion of its resources to establishing mutual development cooperation and building a more stable and just formula for relations between the advanced

North and the South, which is struggling for survival and progress—that is, the underdeveloped South.

No matter how much is said about the secondary Third World role in establishing and consolidating this world order, after a close look we see that the medium- and small-size states, which make up over two-thirds of the international community, can play an active and effective role in this context, if they want to, in accordance with their size and capabilities. They can do this by contributing to the development of the rules that should govern international relations, particularly those applied to relations among themselves, or by getting acquainted with the realities of the new international world order and taking a positive and realistic look at them to realize that there is no absolute evil or absolute good. Everything in this world has both positive and negative aspects. A prudent man must invest the positive aspects and avoid the negative as much as he can. He should seek to steer events away from the courses that do not agree with his vision and interests; he should not take a rejectionist attitude or be a mere bystander who does not believe what is evident and clear to everyone. That man then laments the wasted opportunities which could have enabled him to influence the course of events or take part in drawing up a picture of the future.

Eastern Europe has undoubtedly been affected by changes in the past few years. Developments in these countries were among the most important factors paving the way for change in the international theater. We hope the states which underwent these changes will be able to overcome the difficulties facing them in this transitional stage—the most difficult and severe stage in history—so that they can resume their contribution to laying the foundations to the new international world order.

If we turn to the Middle East and Arab regions, we find that the most important developments last year were the resumption of the peace march—signalled by the Madrid summit of last October—and the aggravating dispute between the United States, Britain, and France and Libya. This crisis forebodes grave dangers and promises serious repercussions.

We were certainly pleased with the resumption of the peace march. We believe that peace is the foremost option available to all the region's peoples. Peace is the only way that we will achieve security and stability, spare the region the hazards of violence, bloodshed, and the squandering of resources, and enable it to plan for the future and continue the reconstruction march. Above all this, peace is the God-chosen course for the faithful, provided that favorable conditions are available and balance is achieved among the various individual interests.

No one can deny that the Arab parties involved have come a long way. They did not stop despite the obstacles and difficulties. On the contrary, these difficulties enhanced their will and determination to face the challenge bravely and without fear or panic. I would particularly like to note the courageous Palestinian stand, which seeks peace and the ability to face the challenge. This could have never been possible if the Palestinian people had no great struggle experience which molded their own vision through successive events [applause] and a courageous leadership which is capable of safeguarding the trust and shouldering the responsibility.

Israel should take the necessary measures and meet the Arabs half way and pave the way for a real coexistence which safeguards the interests of each party and guarantees legitimate rights. It is no longer a secret that this requires, first, the recognition of the land-for-peace principle; the end to settlement building in all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem; and the end to conditional negotiations and obstacles to peace. These practices will serve no one, achieve nothing, or avert threats. On the contrary, they increase suffering and deepen hatred and malevolence.

I believe it is appropriate for me to appeal to the Israeli people from this platform, and in these days in particular, to make up their minds and declare their clear willingness to opt for peace and their desire to do what it takes to bring about a historic reconciliation between the Arabs and the Israelis. To every Israeli, I say it is high time to close the curtains on the past, with all its complexities and accumulated problems, and to reach an agreement with all your Arab neighbors which does not reflect the burdens imposed by occupation and hegemony or is based on obsolete concepts of superiority or expansionism. This agreement should flourish under a fraternity based on equality in rights and duties, mutual respect, and collective participation in facing the challenge of reconstruction and survival.

The peace talks are in progress. There is no alternative to these talks; even in the new world order there is no alternative. This is final. We wish we had proceeded according to the Camp David accords long ago, although some parties are still saying: We are against Camp David. Why do they not say they are against al-Sadat, not Camp David? Does Camp David exist? Camp David told them to withdraw from the land, namely that Israel would withdraw with its military forces from the territories to security points to be agreed upon in (?Cairo). There were no settlements or anything else at the time. That was what the accords stipulated. Had the accords been implemented, settlements would not have been built.

Today we regret not having implemented Camp David. Still, some here say: We are against Camp David. But against what, because there is no Camp David? Leader al-Qadhdhafi called it stable David, but later he praised it. I wish they [the Arabs] had listened. They were not satisfied with al-Sadat and hence they say that there was no need for Camp David. We have regained our land and everything else and we are keeping up with and aiding the peace process. We are making a great effort toward

the peace process; we are making contacts with the Americans and the Israelis for the sake of peace so that we can attain the just rights of the Palestinian people. Today 75 percent of the occupied territories are covered with settlements. We had them in our hands without settlements. Today some still say that they reject the Camp David accords. How nice! Perhaps declaring such a stand would get them more money. These words are obsolete. [jokingly] I forgot Camp David; I no longer know what is in it. [laughter]

The dispute between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the three Western states took on new dimensions after being referred to the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice. I know that this dispute generates concern and dissatisfaction among you and the Egyptian masses. This prompted me to make strenuous efforts and spend sleepless nights trying to figure out how to avert further aggravating the situation and to avoid an escalation which would run out of control, eventually pushing the region into a wilderness that would benefit no one. Despite recent complications, I still believe that it is possible to find a just and acceptable formula which would serve each party's legitimate interests and spare the region tension, violence, and instability.

I have no doubt that all of you realize that the circumstances which prevailed in the past have changed completely. There is no power here and another there. There is only one wall to lean against. [laughter] It is not right to assume that policies are stagnant or inflexible. Some will criticize me in the press tomorrow and ask if there is really one wall. What is there then? Tell me. Perhaps I do not know. Perhaps I am living on a different planet. Do you understand me or do you not know? [laughter and applause]

It is just as wrong to assume that concepts last forever and never change. Eternity is a feature marking the God-endowed Koran alone. No man-made concept can rise to such sublime levels.

I will talk about Libya's issue. I will not get into details; I will only describe it briefly. When the issue began I had already heard about it. I am afraid that one of those who writes books might say: The president knew. Like I said before the Gulf War, I was expecting serious developments. I said that based on my own assessment of the situation. Half a million soldiers and 2,000 aircraft headed for the Gulf, and the U.S. President was saying that it was inevitable that Kuwait would be liberated. He could not have withdrawn all these forces without liberating it; he would have been finished and respect for America would have been lost. One of our writers said: The president knew of the plan and experienced a slip of the tongue.

Last July I was in London. At that time they [journalists] asked why I went there during the 23 July Revolution anniversary, as though it were their anniversary and not mine—the revolution anniversary belongs to us all. An official approached me and told me that the issue of the Lockerbie ship [as heard] involved Libya and that they had irrefutable evidence of this.

One of the Libyans ran away and told the Americans everything. It seems that he was working with them. He gave them the details in full. He told them that neither Syria nor Iran are involved in the operation. This man proved the innocence of the latter two countries. Anyway, I told the Americans: I beg of you, do not inflate the entire issue more than necessary. I asked them to deal with it calmly and to try and find a solution. I did not want to tell the Libyans about this.

They told me: We will give you word the day that the verdict on the involvement of Libya is decided. I discussed things with the Americans over and over again. I tried to convince them that the colonel is a good man. He is obeying orders. He might have some problems with his aides, but he is now convinced that things need to be discussed. This is a fact.

The night before the last People's Assembly session, a foreigner, I think he was an Englishman, wanted to see me and tell me about what he had heard. He told me that the issue was going to be publicized. We wanted to tell you about this yesterday, but it is going to be publicized this afternoon, he said. I said this issue is a big problem. It affects the Libyan people and there is no need for all this. If the problem is one of compensation, I will talk to the colonel. He is doing his utmost and obeying demands. He has a few problems with which we will try to help him.

The whole issue just escalated. I will tell you frankly, I heard of a military operation against Libya. I talked with the United States several times about avoiding a military confrontation. I told them that it would be very dangerous, that we would not be able to defend such a move, and that we would not remain silent. [applause] The truth is that the U.S. President listened to me and said: Okay, there will be no strike.

When I was in Italy, I had Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa with me. A ranking official there told me that the Libyans were going to be hit four days before and that I had spoken to Bush and told him that we were opposed to a strike. He said: You spoke to Bush and the man stopped the operation. They were very happy that the operation had been stopped. This does not mean that the operation will never take place. I did not obtain a promise, but we do not want the crisis to reach that stage again.

As for the resolution calling for extradition, I cannot tell a country to extradite its citizens. I would not hand over Egyptian citizens because we have established procedures and courts. Their standards are different. We asked the Libyans what solution they had. The Americans started their deliberations on whether Libya should hand over the suspects. They then resorted to the Security Council resolutions. The final form of the issued resolution is very different from the original proposal.

We made extraordinary efforts. We held extensive contacts. The international telephone lines were overloaded. I sent cables and received so many from the various sides. In the end, the Security Council met on the night of the Koranic revelation. After I had almost given up, I thought that if I made just a bit more effort I might achieve some results. I sent a message to President Bush and told him that this was the night of the Koranic revelation and that he was demanding the implementation of such sanctions. I said: I will be delivering a speech tonight on the Koranic revelation. It was an attempt on my part to stall things for a while.

They were accusing us of all sorts of things, and we reached the stage where things were backfiring in our face. In the end, he postponed the decision to that Tuesday instead of that Monday. He told me that nothing would be implemented before mid-April. There was no way out. I did the impossible.

Dear brothers, there is something that you need to know. Some said that Egypt's president must talk to Bush and Bush will listen to him. Why? Is Bush supposed to be on my payroll? He does not work for me. I cannot even give an order to [Egyptian opposition figure] al-Sabbahi. And they expect me to issue orders to Bush? [applause and laughter]

I am just giving you an example. [laughter] He is the president of the greatest country in the world. Our good ties with him enable me to give and take with him. The relations we have built with the United States over a long period are governed by logic. Perhaps another president would not bother to listen to me. In his latest message, President Bush told me that he reduced the Security Council resolution to only an aerial and military blockade. He cannot go any further because he faces pressure from inside his country and from the committee formed by the relatives of the aircraft crash victims. Certain voices were raised. You should know that I am limited when I talk with the United States and with any country. I talked with many governments—the British, French, and others. But there are limits, and I cannot exceed them. There is a red line that I cannot cross, because if I do, counterreaction will harm me and my country. I make efforts provided that I do not harm my country. I am absolutely not prepared to harm my country. [applause]

In fact, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi understands this quite well. I explained the issue to him candidly, and he understands this quite well. There are certain people around him, however, who are annoying [mut'ibah]. They can hear me now, but I am speaking the truth. Some of them—and, regrettably, certain newspapers here in Egypt, I do not know why—repeated slogans about unity with Egypt. Col. al-Qadhdhafi understands that unity cannot be established by leaderships, and he told me this when certain people raised the issue. Unity must come from the people. When the peoples' interests merge and they ask for unity, I will go with the majority of the people. I cannot impose unity on the people. We have great experience with unity.

Someone said a solution to the problem lies in unity. I told him that I would be frank with him and not beat about the bush. Col. al-Qadhdhafi never asked for unity. Certain papers here are calling for unity with Libya. I do not know why they write about this. Unity would turn the problem between Libya on the one side and the United States, Britain, France, and the whole world on the other over to me. I have to take care of the interests of my 58 million people. It is not easy for me to endanger them. I am doing all I can to solve our own problems. We have solved many of our problems and I cannot afford to throw this away overnight. If we wasted our achievements we would need more than 30 years to attain them again. No one would believe me.

What should I have done with such people? Tell me, what can I do with them? There is pressure either to hand them over... [changes thought] I did not ask him to hand them over. I have nothing to do with this. He [not further identified] pressures me to entangle me in the confrontation with them. Either you hand them over or they will impose sanctions. Those who will impose sanctions are Britain, France, Europe, the United States, Japan, Russia, and many others. They would blockade us and thus I would endanger my country. If there were unity with Libya and I were forced to hand them over, we would be called traitors, agents, and so on and so forth. Unity would mean that I would get trapped. No, I would never accept that. [applause]

If anyone has a way to solve the problem, I will praise him. This is not a new Camp David agreement. This is dangerous. I would not hand them over. I would help Libya, but the Libyans should make the decision that suits them. I can help the Libyans as much as I can under the international circumstances, but I do not want to embroil my country in a catastrophe. If I imperiled Egypt, what could they do to help me? We have a large population with large interests.

I am giving as much assistance as I can within limits which will not harm the public interests of this people. I will never change this stand, regardless of the circumstances. [cheers and applause]

I welcome unity, provided that the people approve of it. You can make unity if you wish; I will not. The colonel understands that unity must come from the people themselves, not from the leaders. Leadership-imposed unity is a long game which has failed to work. We tried it several times. We must learn lessons from the past. If the grass-roots majority demands unity, I will say yesterday because it is the request of the people who are entitled to that right. Because you, Mustafa [Bakri, a columnist for MISR AL-FATAH], want to achieve unity with them, you can go ahead. [laughter] [passage omitted]

Cairo Expresses Support for New Afghan Government

NC0105100392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—Egypt has underlined its support for the new legitimate authority in Afghanistan and welcomed the new council that took over under the leadership of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi after 14 years in which the mojahedin made great sacrifices for their holy cause.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman appealed to all Afghan mojahedin groups to put aside whatever causes divisiveness and weakness and to work at this critical stage for national unity and rebuilding the homeland.

The spokesman emphasized Egypt's willingness to cooperate with fraternal Islamic countries in the efforts to rebuild Afghanistan.

On the other hand, a senior source in the Foreign Ministry said that diplomatic relations between Egypt and Afghanistan are expected to be resumed soon particularly because this would not entail a recognition of the new government because this recognition is taken for granted.

Pretoria Official Meets With Foreign Minister

NC3004231392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2224 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Neil van Heerden, director general of the South African Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting took place within the framework of Egypt's efforts to support steps designed to end apartheid in South Africa and to establish a democratic system which will provide equal opportunities for all people irrespective of color or creed.

Van Heerden stated that the meeting provided an opportunity to get acquainted with the views of each country. He said that the situation in South Africa was assessed by both sides.

He noted that South Africa is an African state and is entitled to join the OAU. He expressed the hope that this will take place soon.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Assesses Possible Lockerbie Trial

NC3004191792 London MBC Television in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report on interview with leader of the revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by unidentified MBC correspondent on 30 April; place not given]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to MBC today, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that there are numerous solutions to the Lockerbie issue, but he accused the other side of intransigence.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qadhdhafi] The Pan Am issue is very easy to resolve. They can be tried in any Arab country, in Malta, by an international court, a neutral court, or by a mixed court, or we can try them. This is not a problem. What counts is a trial. They [not further identified] have a right to see who the criminal is.

[Correspondent] Brother leader, through your contacts, do you know of any new Libyan, Arab, or Western initiatives? Is there anything new? What about your meetings and contacts with President Husni Mubarak?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] As for the Arabs, we thank them. They have made efforts. King Fahd, President Mubarak, King Hassan, and President Zine El Abidine [Ben Ali] made efforts. In fact, all of them without exception made efforts. We want the relaxation in the international situation to continue. Shall we carry the sword anew? That would anger us. This would mean that we cannot (?keep) factories, agriculture, cities, and would have no stability. This would entail that we begin to struggle, fight, and confront one another—against East, West, North and South, and Christians and Muslims [as heard]. There are Christians in the Arab homeland. I cannot understand fighting unless it becomes an inevitable necessity for self-defense. [end recording]

Col. al-Qadhdhafi noted that he constantly watches MBC programs. He said:

[Begin al-Qadhdhafi recording] I have a satellite dish at home especially to receive MBC. I follow your newscasts and activities and admire your team. I am proud to see an international Arab media center. All Arabs who can afford to buy satellite dishes can watch your programs. [end recording]

Awaits World Court Decision

NC3004141092 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, April 30 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said he was still awaiting a final decision by the World Court over the bombing of an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

His comments, carried Thursday by the official Egyptian news agency MENA, were made at a news conference overnight Wednesday in Tripoli. They coincided with the opening this week in New York of hearings into a liability lawsuit against Pan Am by relatives of victims of Flight 103, which was bombed over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 with a loss of 270 lives.

Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed his country's innocence in the bombing of the American airliner. The United States and Britain have indicted two Libyan suspects in the attack and are demanding their extradition. Libya's failure to hand them over was met in April by a UN

Security Council decision to impose on Tripoli an air traffic, arms and diplomatic embargo.

Tripoli—which has denied any responsibility in the bombing—called on the World Court to issue restraining orders against London and Washington but its request was turned down. The 15-member Court, a UN body officially known as the International Court of Justice, ruled 10 to five earlier this month against Libya's plea. The World Court is still expected to examine the dispute.

Al-Qadhdhafi said Libya "wants peace" and urged the United States to be a "fair referee." He also called on members of the 15-seat Security Council to travel to Libya and see for themselves that his country "does not harbour terrorists." The Libyan leader charged that his country's dispute with the West was a "new colonialist attack against the Arab world aimed at controlling its oil ressources."

"The West is dealing with Libya in the same manner it dealt with Iraq," al-Qadhdhafi said in reference to international trade sanctions facing Baghdad since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "This proves once more that the Gulf war was not aimed at liberating Kuwait but at destroying Iraq," the Libyan leader said according to MENA. He also dismissed as a "folly" any attempt by the West to use force against Libya to impose the UN sanctions.

Asked about Western media reports incriminating Syria and the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the Lockerbie bombing, al-Qadhdhafi said: "I don't think Syria perpetrated such a crime."

"As for (PFLP-GC leader) Ahmad Jibril, he is a freedom fighter not a terrorist."

Defendants' Lawyer Seeks Fair Trial Guarantees

NC0105095392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, the lawyer for the two Libyan defendants in the Lockerbie case, has underlined his clients' desire to be tried by a fair court and to prove their innocence to the whole world, especially to their relatives, sons, and country. He said that they are fully confident of their innocence.

In an interview with MENA, al-Ghuwayl said that the defendants agree to be tried in Britain or the United States if a fair trial is assured, noting the need to provide several guarantees for this, including that the charges against them should be clear and specific so that they will not face new charges later.

He added: There is the question of the conditions of custody while awaiting trial, the guarantee that there would not be a second trial, that the defendants should have access to all the classified information [al-ma'lumat al-musannafah] and exonerating evidence, and the ability to contact their lawyers. He emphasized that if these assurances are provided and guaranteed by the judicial authorities, then the two suspects will be ready to stand trial.

Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl said in the interview that there is an important point to consider in case the defendants are tried in Britain or the United States, namely the seditious media in the two countries, which have convicted the defendants before the trial has started. He added that the jury system in Britain and the United States makes the jury members subject to media influence, as is not the case with judges, because a judge in a criminal court normally has the rank of an appeals court counselor after having spent between 15 and 20 years in the judiciary.

He said that his clients' presence before three or five judges would in itself be a guarantee for them, noting that the UN and the Arab League secretary generals could have a role in providing these guarantees and a fair trial.

In reply to a question on how the defendants could reach the site of the trial if the guarantees are provided, the Libyan lawyer said that they could travel with the help of a third country, the Arab League secretary general, or human rights organizations.

Asked how it will be possible to circumvent the Libyan legal ban on handing over the suspects, Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl said that the term hand over is impermissible, even if it has been frequently used. Noting that Libyan law bans extradition, he said: We are not talking about extradition. What we are saying is that they would stand before a fair trial. In other words, we are talking about their appearance before a court, which is different from extradition.

The Libyan lawyer asserted that if Egypt agrees to hold the trial on its territory in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the 1971 Montreal Convention on Civil Aviation as soon as the defendants arrive on its territory, that would be the best place to hold the trial, particularly if Britain and the United States agree, although Egypt is not a party to the dispute.

Al-Ghuwayl pointed out that Libyan citizen 'Abd-al-Majid Ja'akah who, according to the Western media's claims, used to work at the Libyan Airlines office in Malta, escaped to the United States, and handed over documents proving Libya's involvement in the Lockerbie incident, is suffering from a pathological condition and is also a charlatan who claims to be able to invoke jinn and spirits. Al-Ghuwayl added that this alleged witness might be the person who is involving Britain in this fabricated and strange case.

Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl accused the CIA of fabricating the case and putting it in the spotlight. He said that the U.S. magazine TIME and Italian television's Channel 2 recently asserted that Libya is not involved in the incident.

The Libyan lawyer said that TIME termed as groundless the report claiming that an unaccompanied brown Samsonite briefcase was transferred from a Maltese plane

that made the Valletta-Frankfurt flight on the day the incident occurred, 21 December 1988, to the doomed Pan Am plane.

He continued that French television's Channel 2 confirmed this point when it broadcast video footage last Monday about the baggage that was transferred to the U.S. plane on the day of the incident. He noted that the alleged briefcase did not appear on this film.

Al-Ghuwayl asserted that the two Libyan suspects, al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi, are suffering inordinate hardship because they are being subjected to false accusations and are seeking a fair trial anywhere. He pointed out that Resurrection Day symbolizes to the Christians a person against whom false accusations were brought and who was given an unfair trial. He added that historian Arnold Toynbee expressed this by saying "I have experienced this individual's suffering"—meaning the Lord Christ—"until I imagined it represented the suffering of all humanity."

It should be noted that the lawyer Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl graduated from Cairo University Law School in 1959 and has been a practicing lawyer in Libya since that time.

Tripoli Recognizes New Afghan Government

LD3004191692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Apr (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation has issued a statement on the recent development in Afghanistan. Here is the text: The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation has followed with interest the recent developments in Afghanistan and the development of the situation in that fraternal country following a civil war that lasted more than 14 years. The People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation expresses its satisfaction following the return of peace to that Muslim country and the end of the bloody conflict there, and it announces the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's recognition of the Islamic republic of Afghanistan, as well as its readiness to bolster the march of peace, cooperation, and fruitful efforts mutually beneficial to the two fraternal peoples between the Great Jamahiriyah and Afghanistan.

Morocco

King Hassan Discusses Role as Political Arbitrator

LD2904225392 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2123 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Address by King Hassan II from the Rabat palace on Moroccan political parties' request that he act as a political arbitrator—live]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God; prayers and peace be upon our master, God's messenger, and his family and companions. Dear people: Undoubtedly you have read in the papers that a number of political parties, particularly those in the government, have asked me, following a meeting, to act as an arbitrator. An arbitrator about what and why?

First, I would like to say that it is among my duties as well as my commitment to the duties of allegiance to the throne to listen to everyone and to give as much as possible everyone his rightful, fair share. That is why I have never tried to avoid arbitration nor will I ever try to avoid one, particularly in the matter about which I was yesterday asked to act as an arbitrator. [passage omitted]

Why arbitration? Arbitration because the political groups, which I met and which are not in the government, thought and considered that a process such as studying the election law and looking into and deciding it is not a routine process, and hence voting should not be routine voting in which a simple majority should be sufficient. This was because of the importance of that law and because of its important consequences. This is the reason for arbitration.

What kind of arbitration? Was I asked to make a judicial judgement? No. Was I asked to say what the Constitution says? I do not think so. If I used the text of the Constitution, then I would have said to those gentlemen: With respect for and appreciation of what you say, there are statutes before the legal committee for legislation, and you have to follow the statutes. After that you will join the general assembly of the parliament and you will vote. The Constitution does not have any loopholes which allow you to resort to me or which qualify me to agree to arbitrate.

However, my dear people, in fact I understand that arbitration is, before anything, political. Why political arbitration? That is what made me think quickly and accept it instinctively. Why? Someone may wonder how one can renege on an election law which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers, which was chaired by the king. [passage omitted]

Is there a contradiction on my part? No, there is no contradiction. There is no contradiction because I am loyal to my logic and faithful to my statements. All respected members of the parliament, and whenever I have the opportunity to meet them, either inside the parliament to open the session or outside it, always hear from me two statements: that there is no preference for the majority as regards the minority and vice versa, but only through right and through choosing the best way; and that I always tell the deputies that they are ministers as far as I am concerned because the word minister in the Arabic language is one who helps shoulder the burden. Therefore, I am before ministers of a different kind and before a group of Moroccans, nationalist citizens who believe that out of the duty of advice [King Hassan quoting religious saying of Mohammad], they believe

that they should tell me that the operation is a serious one, and that we are convinced that your appreciation of its seriousness will not make you content to deal with it according to the number of votes and favor the majority or the minority. In fact, they were right because in such a political problem the criterion should not be the numbers but rather the opinions. The opinion will always be right whenever it takes into consideration all the other opinions, even if those holding them are a minority compared to the others.

As I said to you my dear people, we consider the arbitration to be political. I say that I did not hesitate to shoulder my duty, the duty of caring, the duty of gathering the people, and the duty of closing the ranks, because I thought that what awaits us and what we are undertaking should not be wronged. The wrong here is not to unite all Moroccans in one rank to fight the battle of democracy, implementing the Constitution, building the future, and building the state of law, which takes into consideration the right of the citizen and above that the right of the state.

I personally will do everything I can to satisfy all the sides which constitute the parliament, bearing in mind that there is no side which is inferior to another or a side which is more patriotic than another. We are all Moroccans. We are one family.

Each one is entrusted by the the Moroccan people, the deputy is entrusted by the electorate, the parties are entrusted by those who belong to them, and the king of Morocco is entrusted by all the Moroccan people.

Dear people, I am convinced that this operation will highlight our path and our constitutional march because it will introduce an important and basic element into our political ethics. It is to take into consideration first and foremost the general interest. Second, it will highlight the sustainable search for unification of ranks especially, dear people, if we are patient to some degree and if we bear up a little bit.

I am saying this briefly especially now that we are on the eve of May Day. On this occasion I am addressing the workers who in fact did not receive what we could have given them, emotionally, politically, and from the point of view of justice, and what we could have bestowed on them. They are aware, as we are, that we can only give what we have. I would like to tell them in particular, however, because their occasion falls on 1 May, and I would like to tell everybody: Be patient for a few months because as soon as the outside world and the international community see that we are following the right path, as soon as the community and the world realize that we are firm in our choices, that we are aware of the magnanimity of the operation, and that we are determined to overcome all obstacles to reach the end of this year, we will be by the end of this year, God willing, in a prosperous, harmonious, and mutually beneficial internal political situation. And we will by the end of this year in our dear Sahara know for good following the referendum scheduled to take place before the end of this year.

The world will also witness from an economic point of view that doors will be open to us in order to give the domains of employment and investment the attention they both deserve. Therefore, as I told you, dear people, I am ready emotionally to act as an arbitrator as soon as possible. Thus, I will on the evening of 1 May chair the first meeting of this committee. In reality there will be two committees, however. The first one will examine electoral lists in order to reach a consensus after which texts of the consensus will go before parliament in order to be enacted as usual. The work of the first committee will then end. However, along with this committee another committee should be formed and should include a number of political parties and some ministers to follow up the electoral process. It is our estimate, however, that the second committee will have no benefit at all if it is only a central one, based in Rabat. Of course we wanted the central committee to be situated near us but also to have regional branches in order to be able to control the electoral process and be reassured that everything is proceeding as planned and to the satisfaction of everyone.

God willing, we will be addressing you once again on this committee in order to give you, dear people, its members, its aims, and its jurisdiction. For the moment let us begin on 1 May with this committee, the Arbitration Committee, which will include, under our chairmanship, the leaders of political parties, whether they are in the government or in opposition. From the government it will include the justice minister, the interior minister, and the secretary general of the government. I personally will be chairing the opening session of this committee as well as following up its progress. And I am sure that you, dear people, are aware—and in that respect all other political parties—that we are hard pressed by time. Therefore, it will be commendable if the committee could finish its work in less than ten days. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Says Peace Talks Preparations Continue

EA3004190292 Khartoum SUNA in French 1642 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Mr. Ali Ahmad Sahlul has pointed out that all concerned parties have given their consent to taking part in the next round of talks between the government and the rebel movement scheduled for 24 May in the Nigerian capital of Abuja.

In a statement to SUNA, Mr. Sahlul added that preparations for this round of talks are in progress in Khartoum. Moreover, he expressed his satisfaction at the contribution of some brotherly countries such as Nigeria and Kenya, which

have given a considerable boost to the country's peace process. The Sudanese foreign minister also expressed his satisfaction at the existing relations between Sudan and [word indistinct] of the two countries.

Visiting Iraqi Minister on 'Unjust' UN Embargo

EA0105065592 Khartoum SUNA in French 0951 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (SUNA)—Mr. 'Abdallah al-Fadil, Iraqi minister of awqaf and religious affairs and who is currently visiting the country, has strongly criticized the continuation of the embargo which was imposed on his country by the UN Security Council.

During a news conference held on 29 April in Khartoum, Mr. al-Fadil pointed out that the embargo had lost all justification and that it was but a plot by the Western powers against Iraq and the entire region under the guise of a new world order.

He termed as lies the allegations that Iraq is not respecting the Security Council resolutions, pointing out that his country had already fulfilled more than 70 percent of the "unjust" resolutions imposed on it by the Security Council.

Moreover, the Iraqi official condemned the behavior of the Western press, which strives to distort the image of the countries which reject imperialist ideas, branding them aggressive and wrong.

He also declared as null and void the allegations broadcast by the Western media that there are religious and ideological conflicts in Iraq, pointing out that there is no problem between Shia and Sunni sects in Iraq. The Iraqi Government has spent more than $115 million, 45 kg of gold, and 200 kg of silver to rebuild Shia holy places in the country, and the state has always striven to create a favorable atmosphere for the different religions, the Iraqi minister of awqaf and religious affairs concluded.

Kuwait

Pakistani Minister Calls For Defense Cooperation

BK2904040092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, who is now visiting Kuwait, has exchanged views with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, on ways to increase military cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier he called on Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and delivered a message from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Thereafter, he called on Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, and delivered Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's message to him.

Oman

Sultanate Recognizes New Afghan Government

JN3004151592 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] An official spokesman for the Omani Foreign Ministry announced that while still following with extreme interest the developments in Afghanistan, the Sultanate of Oman has decided to declare its recognition of the mojahedin interim government headed by Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. The spokesman also said that the Sultanate of Oman welcomes the Afghan mojahedin agreement forming the Afghan interim council, which has assumed authority in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Russian Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

JN3004164792 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his delegation left Oman this afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to Oman during which he was honored by meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and delivered to his majesty a message from His Excellency Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Earlier today His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, held a joint news conference at the Information Ministry's press club.

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said that the meeting of the Russian foreign minister with his majesty the sultan was a suitable opportunity for discussions dealing with a number of issues related to current issues in the Middle East, the Gulf region, and the areas surrounding the Gulf.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that during their talks yesterday the Omani and Russian sides agreed to continue contacts between the two countries and to set up a joint working group for the Foreign Ministries of the two countries to exchange consultations. It was also agreed to exchange visits between the two countries and to go ahead with implementing agreements, particularly those dealing with economic and commercial fields.

For his part, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev described his talks and meetings with Omani officials as fruitful and successful. He said: It is in the interest of Russia to cooperate with all Gulf states in the service and interest of these countries, and to maintain security and stability in the region.

He emphasized that joint interests necessitate preserving security and stability in the Gulf, and added: It is in the interest of us all that Iraq implements the concerned Security Council resolutions in full so as to prevent a recurrence of what happened in the region.

The Russian minister said that at the same time that his country believes that Iraqi territorial integrity should be maintained and that Iraq should be given a chance to assume its position among other countries in the region.

As for the Middle East peace efforts, the Russian minister stressed his country's belief that all Gulf countries and Russia will do all they can to make the peace process a success. In this context, he stated that he extended to His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, a joint invitation from the cosponsors of the peace conference—Russia and the United States—to participate in the activities of one of the most important working committees, which were formed within the framework of the multilateral negotiations.

In reply to a question concerning plans to amend the UN Charter, the Russian minister said that it is better not to change the UN Charter and to get the maximum benefit possible out of this charter to maintain international stability.

As for the new situation in Afghanistan, the Russian minister announced that his country welcomes the new interim Afghan government headed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. He expressed the hope that differences among the Afghan mojahedin would come to an end.

Saddam Visits al-Anbar, Notes Party-Popular Ties

JN3004193292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today visited al-Anbar Governorate on the occasion of the first anniversary of his excellency's visit to the same governorate following the major duel in the eternal Mother of Battles.

On 30 April 1991 the leader president made the first official inspection tour of the masses of his people only days after the end of the chapter of military aggression and the subsequent chapter of treason and treachery.

During that visit, our people in the governorate met, as they have always done and will always do, the expectations of the president and the party and its masses. On that eternal day al-Anbar Governorate—with its men and women, prominent figures and citizens, old and young—took to the streets to renew a pledge written in blood and drenched with the smell of gunpowder to the leader of the people and the knight of the nation.

That day genuinely represented not only the response of the people in the governorate, but the response of all of Iraq from one end to the other, for which the al-Anbar Governorate opened the door wide for all to shout: No to the aggressors, no to the enemies of freedom, no to the enemies of peace, no to the murders of women and children, no to Zionism, no to the agents and traitors, no to those who plunder the pan-Arab wealth, no to those who wreak havoc in the land, no to the enemies of faith and the desecraters of sacred places, yes to Islam, yes to right, yes to freedom, yes to peace, yes to Arabism, yes to Iraq; and in sum, no to criminal Bush and yes to leader Saddam Husayn.

President Saddam Husayn spoke at Governorate House about internal party affairs and the relationship between the partisans and the masses. He also spoke about the need to depart from the traditional methods that existed before the Mother of Battles, both those concerning internal party life and the mass activities of the party, and to raise these methods to a level of seriousness that agrees with the new phase.

The president, surrounded by the masses, then left Governorate House for city hall, where he met with clergymen, tribal chiefs, and prominent figures in the governorate.

The two meetings were attended by Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command [of the Ba'th Party]; Hamid 'Abd Muhaysin, secretary of the party branch in the governorate; and Deputy Governor 'Abd-al-Sattar Muhammad Dallah 'Ali. The same officials were on hand to receive and bid farewell to President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Assembly Speaker Congratulates Saddam on Birthday

JN3004194092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Text" of cable from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of his birthday; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him: In the days of pride, glory, and dignity, and while the Iraqis are celebrating the happy occasions of April—the birth [of the Ba'th Party], steadfastness, and victory [in the al-Faw battle]—we observe 28 April, the birthday of the historic leader of the nation and the sign of a new dawn on this good land—the land of civilizations, science, knowledge, and light—the glorious day in which a great, historic leader was born. Our nation has been waiting for this leader generation after generation.

Your birth, my leader, was reassurance for the future of the homeland and people and a conclusion of the birth of the Ba'th and the essence of heroism revived in the theater of Arab history. This heroism should be credited to us because we are credited to it. All good people and free men extol us for this pride while following up the escalating aggressive evil onslaught against our model of leadership and revolutionary experiment, on both the national and pan-Arab levels. They extol us now that heroism has become a public social act evinced by the pictures and examples of the brave fighters and mujahedin in the second al-Qadisiyah and in the Mother of Battles following the example of Saddam Husayn, his heroism, his bravery, and capability. Blessed be this generation; and what a wonderful man is its leader on his birthday, which has transcended a personal event to become a comprehensive event involving everyone.

Sir, the great leader, our celebration on your birthday affirms today more than ever our absolute allegiance to your historic leadership, our love to you, and our deep faith in your ability to achieve reconstruction with confidence, determination, and national principled pride, defying all difficulties and obstacles regardless of their size or source. My leader president, you are the symbol of courage and sacrifice seldom known by the leaders of our time. Congratulations to you, O pride of the Iraqis and the Arabs, the object of their inspiration and the symbol of their steadfastness and loftiness. Congratulations to you, O great leader whose strength was polished by military experience and whose capable leadership has drawn continuous inspiration from the history of his glorious nation and from its present life and progress for the sake of its future. You have become the source of light which dissipates darkness and removes dark curtains that the rancorous U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic conspiracy seeks to create. Congratulations to our people and nation on their leader who unleashes the hidden potential, restores the path on

which the masses become responsible for their fate, and leads the way to the future at a time when darkness, the falsehood of agents and traitors, and the ambitions of the tyrants of the materialist Western civilization—a civilization that is dying—have worked together and stood in the same trench.

We pledge to escalate our position and principled honesty. We will continue to say: We are the ones whom you knew on this day last year; we are the ones who will remain with you under your banner in the next years.

May God grant you long life, O dear leader; may He preserve you for your people and nation; may He grant you success and protect you and render all your steps a success.

[Signed] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih

'Udayy Speech on Election as Journalists President

JN2904130592 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
26 Apr 92 p 2

["Text" of a speech delivered by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn on 24 April on his election as president of the Journalists Union; place not given]

[Excerpts] It is a great honor to meet with this huge gathering of my journalist colleagues. I would like here to thank this good gathering for their absolute confidence in having me as their president. Despite the short time I have worked in the press, which might not equal that of many of my comrades and brothers in this hall, I am aware of the problems that the press has been suffering from for a long time. [passage omitted]

In the aftermath of the Mother of Battles, we have noticed that a group of people has demonstrated certain trends which serve personal objectives that have nothing to do with the homeland and the nation. At a time when journalists were expected to occupy a prominent position and exercise a conscious role in the stage of reconstruction and psychological instruction of citizens through understanding the meanings of President Saddam Husayn's speech on democracy and giving freedom of expression to the press, we found that some journalists have regrettably tried to drag the state into positions that contradict democracy and the freedom of the press. Those people have apparently forgotten that President Saddam Husayn commits himself to what he says and to the road he chooses, which is the same road that we have irreversibly chosen. Thus, this group started to spit out its venom through veiled articles.

Apart from this bad example of journalism, there have been nationalist journalists, who have proven their commitment to the nation and the leader.

This situation shows that there is something wrong and that there is some sort of disease in the press. I do not want to go into details in this short speech. What is needed, however, are collective efforts to deal with mistakes calmly, radically, and properly so as to eradicate aberrant, diseased phenomena. [passage omitted]

Our enemies want to achieve two major goals: using the weapon of democracy and the weapon of sabotage at the same time—that is, using sabotage under the guise of democracy. Our enemies are using the weapon of democracy against us, although we are the originators of democracy and our religion, prophet, and all the caliphs believe in it. This is what confuses matters and requires that we all examine things carefully. If you look at the list of candidates for the vice presidents and members of the Journalists Union, you will be able to get to the bottom of this matter because you are the people of the country and you know better what is happening in it. You will find among these names some candidates who are seeking personal interests. And some of these candidates might try to achieve their objectives in the next phase of the union's activity.

It is regrettable that what happens in even simple elections, such as in sports elections and elections that determine the choice of some leaders in the country, is that the guileless Iraqis are deceived by some methods used by candidates. When one person meets another, shakes hands with him, kisses and welcomes him, the other person will be influenced and will elect that candidate even if he is not qualified to assume responsibility.

We are about to begin a new phase. Freedom of the press means that the one which is going to lead the press is the Journalists Union, in accordance with the law of free speech and freedom of the press, according to which the Ministry of Information is responsible for the press of the state. The role of the Journalists Union would be determined by party pluralism and the unofficial press.

The Journalists Union therefore assumes a great responsibility before God, the leader, and the homeland. Everybody should discard the negative aspects of the past stage and open a new chapter, especially because our enemy has harmed many people, to the extent that you can easily perceive the influence of foreigners on some.

These are general remarks about the press which I was not planning to make. However, I preferred to make them so as to overcome the negative aspects of the past and to build strong press relations that serve the leader and the press march and family. I thank you all for listening, and I thank the minister of culture and information for attending our conference. I also thank Salah al-Mukhtar and Kamil al-Sharqi and all attendees for this confidence. God willing, we will succeed in rendering useful services to you.

Information Minister on Media Performance, Problems

JN0105055392 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
22 Apr 92 p 3

[First part of interview with Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by acting Chief Editor 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [BABIL] At the outset we would like to pass on the greetings of Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the BABIL board of directors. Mr. Minister, we do not want this interview to be traditional. What we want to do is to frankly and without any hesitation seek explanations from you about what is being said in the press and within information circles—things which have not been communicated to you for various reasons.

The first question: When you took over the Ministry of Culture and Information, you took a very courageous step by luring home Iraqi expertise from abroad. By so doing, you managed to render new services to Iraqi media. This is something that nobody can deny. Furthermore, while the march forged ahead, an excellent and superior phenomenon emerged, namely the readers' mail sent to papers. Meanwhile, other media organs failed to measure up to their expectations. I am here referring to television. As for radio, it has made blameless qualitative leaps. What is your comment?

[Hammadi] Are you saying that television's performance in terms of measuring up to viewers' expectations is lower than that of radio?

[BABIL] Yes, exactly.

[Hammadi] First, let me say this. Before the brothers became engaged in their work, we conducted a survey of viewers and listeners. Approximately 100,000 questionnaires were printed and distributed by ALIF BA' magazine and local papers. These questionnaires were given to universities and students. We received around 8,500 responses. This took place in June or July last year. We received this limited number of responses because the postal services for ordinary and express mail were irregular at the time. The completed questionnaires reached the al-Salihiyah Post Office. They were sometimes delivered by hand to the ministry's Information Office. The responses received may account for almost 10 percent of the questionnaires delivered. This is an acceptable percentage, however, if we are to take into account the prevailing circumstances at the time. Most often, surveys of this kind are not carried out with the distribution of such a large number of questionnaires. There is a statistical rule on selecting samples. Most often a sample does not exceed 800 or 900 persons. We wanted to have impressions regarding the preferences of Iraqi viewers and listeners. We divided programs into special areas—that is, programs were divided into political programs, sports programs, and entertainment programs. Examples of the entertainment programs included in the questionnaire were series and songs. Certain types of songs were accounted for in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into 22 or 24 sections to make it easy for respondents to provide answers. This is not all that we did. We asked viewers and listeners to identify by name the programs that they preferred and asked them to give reasons for this. We also asked them about the times they wanted to see them aired, whether in the morning or the evening. We also asked them to identify by name the programs that they did not like and asked them to give reasons for this. The following is an example of this: I prefer the program "Sports in the Week." The reasons might have something to do with the way program is presented. We also asked viewers and listeners to provide their own proposals and remarks. The questionnaires were used in the aftermath of the chapter of treachery and betrayal. It is true that radio and television began to play their role in this regard in May. Entertainment was the people's first preference at the time.

As for political programs, which constituted an entire section of the 22-section questionnaire, they were not popular. So, we took the circumstances into consideration. But, we argued that if we present too many entertainment programs, political programs might become the people's third preference rather than their 22d. Iraqi viewers and listeners have always viewed television and radio as tools of amusement, entertainment, and education. Television addresses all strata of society. It is unreasonable for us to expect a housewife to look for education from television. In contrast, a young university graduate might expect television to provide education. This is especially true if we take transmission times into account. For example, nobody watches television during the day. During the afternoon viewers who want television to provide education are sleeping. This leaves them with the period from evening until late night. This time is most often spent visiting and doing other things. We took all this into account. This caused us to reschedule programs, especially during the first two months. We focused on entertainment programs for psychological reasons with the aim of calming people. I remember that when we changed the time of the newscast and began to broadcast it at 2100—that is, when we began to broadcast entertainment programs from 1900 to 2100—we received a report from the Traffic Department reporting light traffic during this period and attributing this to the fact that people were watching television. Then, the destroyed bridges were not repaired. This prompted people to walk in the evenings. This caused heavy traffic. As a result of this change in the newscast broadcast time, people began to watch television programs.

As for making viewers and listeners happy, there are two problems that must be tackled. The first problem concerns efficiency in producing television programs, regardless of whether they are local, Arab, or foreign. The second problem concerns satisfying viewers' tastes. We firmly believe that our television programs are value-oriented programs and not like the U.S. shows which cater to all tastes. There are general programs. However, there are programs that excite a large sector of viewers—that is to say, these programs are exciting programs which have nothing to do with educating people. As for the purposes meant to be achieved by European and U.S. television, they are commercial rather than educational. [passage omitted]

Due to the unfair blockade imposed on our country, we cannot send people outside Iraq, as other television stations are doing with their correspondents. We do not have planes

operating to fly correspondents abroad. Nobody is granting us visas. Even if we had the needed funds, cumbersome problems continue to shackle us. There are hot spots witnessing world events, such as the Vienna conference. Why did I not send correspondents there to do interviews or other things? Why did I not send correspondents to other conferences to cover hot events in the Arab region or the world? Right now, we cannot do this. This is because we need funds. Even if we were to obtain the funds we would not be able to obtain the required visas to send correspondents abroad. At present, we only have three or four IRAQI NEWS AGENCY bureaus operating in the world. All other bureaus were closed. These offices currently operate in Moscow, Amman, and Tunis. We will open a bureau in Sudan. The agency's bureau in New York is located in a room in the embassy. And because it is part of the embassy, it has been spared. This is the problem. The news program is the most important political program. Besides, there are objective and purely technical requirements that have to be secured in other programs as well. I can say that some television series and programs are partially successful. I am particularly referring to some Iraqi series, some of which were not as successful as they should have been for many reasons. As you are well aware, our technical performance in the fields of directing, story writing, and screen writing is still lagging behind the technical performance of other countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and North Africa. The reason is that we are backward in this art. There are social reasons for this. We are the top in abstract art in the whole Arab region. The same goes for our superiority in sculpture. In these two areas, we are even superior to the Turks and Iranians. How is this ascertained? When world and European exhibitions are held, you find that Iraqis take the top prizes and awards at these exhibitions. Their production in this regard surpasses that of others. What is the reason behind this? There are social, cultural, and historical reasons for this. We have a very rich cultural heritage and legacy in the field of abstract art and sculpture. Furthermore, Iraqis have excelled in two areas of intellectual creativity, namely abstract art and poetry and culture. We used to hear the following saying: "Books are written in Egypt, published in Lebanon, and read in Iraq." This is true. With regard to music, directing, and theater, there are social obstacles that prevent us from excelling in these fields. The structural foundations for these arts in Iraq are shaky and weak. This is because the code of ethics cherished by society does not view these arts favorably. For example, who would marry a singer or give him his daughter in marriage? Who would show respect for him? The same goes for people who work in the theater. [passage omitted]

Discusses Discipline, Reforms

JN0105102392 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
23 Apr 92 p 3

[Second part of interview with Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by acting Chief Editor 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [BABIL] We are now speaking frankly. Some say that the Culture and Information Ministry, given that the minister used to supervise the security organs, has become an entity for control or a security department where employees watch one another. How do you respond to this?

[Hammadi] That is totally groundless. If by such remarks one wants to imply that because the minister was the president's secretary and the official in charge of the security organs he brought with him to the Culture and Information Ministry the formulas used by the security organs, and that the employees there have begun watching one another as a result, then I would like to affirm that such talk is completely unfounded. On the contrary, we introduced a form of monitoring, but it is a monitoring of perfomance, not monitoring of the type that you have mentioned.

As I mentioned earlier in my interview, these people—everywhere, and not only in the Ministry of Culture and Information—are not accustomed to administrative discipline. They did not abide by working hours, or deadlines for the completion of specific jobs which they are tasked to carry out, not to mention the gossip, the hypocrisy, and the unhealthy atmosphere that used to prevail at work. We now hold periodic meetings with nearly every branch of the ministry, except perhaps with the cinema and theater departments because they have few activities. I hold two meetings a week with the radio and the television groups and one meeting a week with the chief editors of the newspapers. I hold meetings for every case that needs to be discussed and studied, or which needs some kind of a decision. There are meetings, and I want to bring about an interreaction of views. Every group should think as one body to develop and promote the march or the course we are adopting.

I know why they are talking about monitoring. I see employees leaving work before the close of business without any control. I have seen children playing in the ministry's offices. Once when I was returning to the ministry I met two employees who were returning to work carrying trays of eggs and bags. At the beginning there was a no discipline and they had become accustomed to that. This does not apply to all employees but to some of them. There are many serious employees who are comitted to their work. Complaints usually are made by those who are undisciplined and not by the others. We have important information institutions, and I am more interested in knowing what takes place in radio and television than what takes place in other departments such as the cinema, the theater, or the Department of Antiquities. Every institution affiliated with the ministry is important.

Four months after I took office, I was surprised to see that a television camera was stolen from the television's studio. This was a big studio camera which was stolen. How could it be stolen? How could such a camera which is firmly attached in the studio be stolen? They broke the lock and forced the door, and the tripods of the camera were the only thing that they left behind. We kept looking for the camera for over two months, then we gave up. Many pieces of

equipment were stolen during the aggression. Others were hidden in safe places, but when they were returned there were many parts missing. Warehouses were not organized and needed to be closely watched. One week after I took office I replaced the director general of radio and I am continuing with these reforms in the lower echelons. One day, Salih al-Qarghuli [not further identified] came to me and told me that a video cassette recorder was stolen from his office. He told me that they had forced the door and the window of his office and took the video cassette recorder. This is impermissible. I issued a circular announcing that the one who caught the thief would receive a big monetary reward. At another meeting I explicitly said that when I got my hands on the thief you would see what I would do to him. Well, two days later we found the stolen video cassette recorder wrapped in a piece of cloth on the roof. I insisted on knowing how the recorder was found. Yes, I have set up some monitoring in television and radio offices. This is necessary because it is an important and sensitive department. A few days ago I asked for the administrative organizational chart for radio and television. It showed that the director general is directly responsible for 22 sections and branches. This violates all administrative organization rules, because there can be no direct supervision over more than eight sections or branches.

[BABIL] Should we understand from this that you are in the process of launching an administrative revolution in the Culture and Information Ministry?

[Hammadi] It is not an administrative revolution. The ministry's administrative organization needs to be reviewed. We have diagnosed the following problems: We have a problem preparing the cadres. Reorganizing and reviewing the basic organizational framework is not difficult. Sometimes you have a good administrative organization chart, but when it is implemented it comes out weak and worthless. It is like a Rolls-Royce which has a bad driver who wrecks it after only one month.

The process of rebuilding the leading administrative cadres in the culture and information sector takes time. Why? Because the situation does not meet the standards required by the leader. Evidence of this is that the leader president has visited us three times. He met with media men, and he gave his instructions. These instructions, political or otherwise, are being implemented. Some programs are being aired. You have seen "The File" program, for example. We will develop other political programs. While it is true that radio and television are the most important aspects of culture and information, there are also other aspects such as the press, all the forms of art, and all aspects of culture. Another problem that we have is one of resources. We cannot talk extensively about this problem. We have paper and other printing problems. We have some 500 books which are at the Cultural Affairs Department and which we cannot publish because resources are limited and we have to set priorities. When your salary is 500 dinars, it is illogical for you buy luxury goods with all your salary. You should set aside 200 dinars for rent and other sums for other things. When we have limited resources, we cannot work as we used to in the past.

[BABIL] In this respect, it is being said that you gave orders to republish FUNUN, or AL-IDHA'AH WA AL-TILIFIZYUN magazine. Is this true? We have also heard that you are limiting the number of pages in newpapers.

[Hammadi] This is not true. There is nothing of the sort.

[BABIL] Some say that the Culture and Information Ministry's media coverage was excellent during Sa'dun Hammadi's government, much better than during Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi's tenure. The minister himself sometimes covered the Council of Minister meetings. Now we do not see that. Why?

[Hammadi] At the beginning of the Council of Minister's term last year, and in accordance with instructions from President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, the Council concentrated on issues that had to do with the reconstruction campaign, and the media highlighted the Council's discussions pertaining to increasing steadfastness. Now that the reconstruction campaign is stable, the Council of Ministers has begun discussing organizational and economic measures. As you are aware, some of the Council's decisions are not final, and some of them are recommendations which require further research and study. Some are secret recommendations, and their publication will not be in the public interest. This procedure is followed in most of the world.

[BABIL] Another question, Mr. Minister. Some journalists describe Latif Nusayyif Jasim's era as the era of guided media, war media. The ministry did not realize anything else in the field of information, especially in the external field. The media did not affect the stands of other states and peoples. On the contrary, the effect of foreign media on our people was obvious during the phase of confronting the aggression. This situation continued after you took over the portfolio. What is your comment?

[Hammadi] Of course it was war media, for we were in a state of war with Iran for eight years, and also during the two years that followed 8 August 1988. It is true that a relative cease-fire was observed, but in fact there were Zionist and U.S. threats. So far we have not reached a peace treaty with Iran. Practically, we have been in a state of war even if there had not been a cease-fire, raids, or bombings. We have been in a state of preparation for a new act of aggression. Therefore, it was really a phase of guided media, war media.

[BABIL] During festivals on literature, culture, and art, the state spent too much money on Arab writers. Do not Iraqi writers deserve to have a festival of their own with the same level of organization and interest so that the Iraqi writer may not feel jealous and bitter? What about the proposal to hold a literary or poetry festival for Iraqi artists and writers from the governorates and putting them in five-star hotels as an incentive? You did this for the youth festival, but not for everyone.

[Hammadi] Arab writers and poets were invited on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Mother of Battles. For your information, a large number of these writers came at their own expense. Many of them were embarrassed to demand the price of their tickets. We issued tickets to some. When Iraq plays host to Arab writers, it should respect them. They are our guests and they must be put up in a hotel that fits their status. They are our guests. We did not pay them anything. Yet, they are envied. I find this very strange. It could be from the frivolous writers we have talked about. The Iraqi writer or poet is in his own country. If he is from Baghdad, he stays at his home. He should be ashamed to stay at al-Rashid Hotel. He should visit his Arab friends at the al-Rashid Hotel, sit with them and discuss matters with them. Would he rather stay at al-Rashid Hotel with them at the state's expense in order to appear generous to his Arab friends?

Shamir Calls Peace Talks 'Practical, Businesslike'

TA3004145792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] There is no deadlock in the peace talks, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this afternoon after the latest round of bilateral talks ended. He said it would be desirable to have another round of talks before the Israeli elections. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel heard the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We proposed another round of talks because it is a pity to waste time. I do not know what the Arabs will decide, but it does not matter; if there is not another round by June, then it will take place later. We are in the midst of the process.

[Deqel] There is no stalemate, in your view?

[Shamir] There is no stalemate. Very practical, business-like negotiations are being conducted. We discuss, argue, exchange documents. The process is continuing. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Cited on 'Worst Session' Since Madrid

TA0105045692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni has sharply criticized the latest round of peace talks. Al-Husayni told reporters at his home in East Jerusalem last night this was the worst session of bilateral talks since the Madrid conference in October. He accused Israel of stalling, despite its offers of municipal elections and control of public health in the territories.

Palestinian Leaves Under 'Voluntary Expulsion'

TA0105111292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A 42-year-old Palestinian who was convicted two years ago of terrorist activity crossed into Jordan today under a voluntary expulsion agreement. 'Abd-al-Fattah Sa'adah Hamayil was sentenced to four years in jail for being a member of the Fatah organization and organizing riots in the territories. However, he was released from jail on condition that he spend the next two years and four months in Jordan. Two weeks ago, Faysal al-Husayni appointed Hamayil as a Palestinian representative to the peace talks, but Israel said this was a deliberate provocation.

IDF Commander on New Shooting Policy

TA3004200492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, said today that due to the fact that terrorists have recently increased their use of firearms, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had to resort to more severe and determined steps. Gen. Yatom today toured Hebron. Our military correspondent Moti 'Eden accompanied him.

[Begin recording] ['Eden] In the IDF they say that the armed terrorist squads have stepped up their activity recently, forcing the IDF to update its regulations for opening fire and to allow the special units to intensify their efforts against the terrorists. Attempts to uncover terrorist squads who shoot at soldiers and Jewish and Arab civilians have been successful, thanks to the efforts of intelligence and special units in the field. Nevertheless, following the Dura incident, in which soldiers fired at graffiti painters, a public debate started last week regarding the regulations for opening fire.

Gen. Yatom, where is the thin line between freer shooting at suspects today and the moral aspect?

[Yatom] Shooting is not freer today. The instructions are unequivocal and clear. All of the instructions have been thoroughly discussed.

['Eden] Still, more are being killed today.

[Yatom] More terrorists are being killed, mainly armed terrorists, because the number of clashes between our forces and the armed squads is larger. That is due to an improvement in our intelligence activity and due to our upgraded operational skills. As a result, there are more casualties and fatalities among the terrorists. I would like to add that the majority of terrorists are captured alive. Those who do not create a situation that places our forces in danger are not being shot at—and will not be.

['Eden] Throughout Judaea and Samaria, many new lookout posts have been set up to increase the pressure applied on the terrorist squads. In view of the heavy pressure and massive presence of the special IDF units, 40 wanted men have turned themselves in over the past several weeks. There is public criticism that the finger is too heavy on the trigger.

[Yatom] I am familiar with all incidents of shooting—they have all been investigated, some by me personally—and I am not aware of even a single incident in which the regulations for opening fire were violated or not strictly adhered to. Every incident is investigated, and I can proudly point at the fact that our soldiers take only those steps they are allowed to. They do their job well. They do not violate the regulations for opening fire. [end recording]

Shin Bet Finds 'Terrorist Squads' in Nabulus

TA3004164792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Shin Bet and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in Judaea and Samaria have recently uncovered several terrorist squads that had operated in the Nabulus area, the members of which are suspected of a large number of acts of terrorism, including shootings. The IDF spokesman reported that, among other things, they shot

twice at Army cars in Nabulus, wounding two soldiers, and shot at a civilian car in the region of Elon More, wounding a local resident. The detainees are also suspected of attacking Arab residents. Their interrogation uncovered a kalashnikov rifle and a handgun. It was also revealed that they received orders from Fatah in Jordan.

Visa Delays, Harassment of Syrian Jews Reported

TA29041644 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Article by Shlomo Shamir]

[Text] Although the American State Department has directed its embassy in Damascus to grant Jews entry visas to the U.S. without delay, the Syrian authorities have rejected requests by Jews for exit permits, and a number of them were told to return in another 21 days. The refusals were received by Jews from Damascus, who had appealed to the authorities within the last two days, after publications that Syria would permit its Jews to leave the country. Officials in the Damascus emigration offices told applicants that no new instructions have yet been received and therefore they cannot grant exit visas.

News of the Syrian order was learned through telephone conversations held between Jews living in Damascus and relatives in Brooklyn. Similar reports were also received yesterday from Aleppo Jews to the effect that a few of those who had requested permits two days ago were told to return the next day, while others were told to come to the emigration office in another week. The Jews from Aleppo also reported that the secret police harass those requesting permits. Seymour Reich, who heads a task force for Syrian Jews, said that this latest development must be treated with utmost caution, and so long as al-Asad's decision does not meet the test of action, the assumption remains in effect that there is no change in emigration policy. "From our standpoint, it would be preferable for the Syrian president to publish his announcement in an official manner in Damascus," said Reich.

Further on Visit of Russian Vice President Rutskoy

Rutskoy To Invite Shamir 'Very Soon'

TA0105075992 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 May 92 pp 1, 8

[Report on interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by Sever Plotzker; place and date not given]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy will invite Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to visit Moscow "very soon."

Rutskoy, who is in Israel on a short working visit, spoke about the invitation in an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

"I will invite the prime minister of Israel to visit Russia," Vice President Rutskoy told me, "and I will do it at the earliest possibility."

"Relations between Russia and Israel have entered a new, most positive stage. I and my colleagues in the Russian Government will do everything to deepen and improve the ties."

Rutskoy, who was full of praise for Israel, also said: "I have been crossing the length and breadth of Israel and my heart is full of admiration. What the people of Israel have down here is extraordinary."

[Plotzker] Did you manage to get an impression about Israeli agriculture?

[Rutskoy] Definitely. You converted a desert into a flourishing region. Not every country can boast such achievements.

Rutskoy said that during his tours of the country he met with many immigrants from the former USSR, especially from Russia. "They speak with me completely freely," he said, "and I view them still as citizens of my country. They did after all leave only a short time ago."

[Plotzker] Did they complain to you about absorption difficulties here?

[Rutskoy] No. I did not hear any complaints about the Israeli Government.

Natan Sharansky To Visit Russia

TA0105042892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has invited Natan Sharansky to visit Russia. He also informed Sharansky he would be receiving documents clearing him of charges of spying. Rutskoy and Sharansky met last night at the request of the vice president. Sharansky said he planned to visit Russia.

Agriculture Memorandum Signed

TA0105105792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy signed a memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation this morning. Rutskoy, who is winding up a three-day visit to Israel, said a new phase in the relations between Russia and Israel has been launched. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was there at the prime minister's bureau this morning and reports:

[Golan] Israel and Russia attach great significance to cooperation in the sphere of agriculture, says the memorandum of understanding signed this morning. Prime Minister Shamir and Russian Vice President Rutskoy agreed that the two countries would sign a detailed agreement on this subject in the future. The agreement

will allow the two countries to expand their cooperation in the scientific, technological, and industrial aspects of agriculture.

After the signing ceremony, as toasts were made over glasses of juice, Rutskoy said he was leaving Israel with feelings of love for the industrious nation living here, whose actions can serve an example to any country in the world. Spasibo, the prime minister replied with a smile.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] This was a most successful, very friendly visit. This important guest showed a lot of understanding for Israel's problems and a very friendly attitude. He was impressed by everything he saw and heard, and he is very interested in developing the cooperation between our two countries.

[Golan] Since they have no money for purchases, is there anything we can accomplish with them?

[Shamir] There are many possibilities despite their grave situation. Numerous possibilities have already been examined; possibilities do exist. It is true, they have no money, but they have many things which can be exchanged for money.

[Golan] Such as oil, for instance?

[Shamir] There are all kinds of things. There are possibilities. [end recording]

The vice president is winding up his visit to Israel and flying to Egypt this afteroon. Now Israel is waiting for President Boris Yeltsin himself.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 1 May adds that "the visiting Russian vice president has evinced interest in benefiting from the Israeli expertise in nuclear energy exploitation and in nuclear waste control and disposal methods. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that in a talk with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, the Russian vice president suggested that Russia might utilize Israeli agricultural technology for its exported crops." The report further states that "Rutskoy signed an agreement with the Eisenberg group for joint agricultural projects amounting to $160 million."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 1 May adds that in his meeting with Moda'i today, "Russian Vice President Rutskoy called for cooperation in the construction of a nuclear power plant. The basic production will be done in Russia, while the electronic and control systems will be produced by Israel."]

Joint Aircraft Projects Proposed

TA3004153892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy visited the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] this afternoon. He proposed joint projects involving the IAI and the manufacturers of the Russian Sukhoy aircraft. Our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

The much praised fighter pilot Aleksandr Rutskoy felt at home at the IAI. It was hard to get him out of the pilot's seat of the Lavi prototype.

Rutskoy suggested to IAI's test pilot Menahem Shmu'el that he try the Sukhoy-27, the pride of Russia's fighter planes. Rutskoy suggested to IAI Chairman Mordekhay Hod and Director General Moshe Qeret that they tighten cooperation with Russia's aircraft industries. In two weeks, Rutskoy will meet with businessman Sha'ul Eisenberg at the Sukhoy plants and work out a proposal. Moshe Qeret speaks about the ongoing contacts with the Russians:

[Begin recording] [Qeret] We are making progress in that field, and I am convinced that we will soon make practical achievements.

[Baum] Is there any specific field in the near future?

[Qeret] Our field of activity is aircraft; that is the field we are interested in. Passenger aircraft, joint projects....

[Baum, interrupting] Did you tell them about the Astra-4 you referred to yesterday?

[Qeret] Yes, the Astra-4 is also being considered. We have been dealing with that for some time with various bodies in Russia, and I hope something will come of it in the near future. [end recording]

Egypt's Musa Promises To Expedite Ovitz Affair

TA3004163792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Egyptian foreign minister has announced that he agrees to Foreign Minister David Levi's request to expedite the investigation of David Ovitz. The promise was made in a letter 'Amr Musa sent to the foreign minister in Jerusalem.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry told our correspondent Arye Golan that they now expect more rapid developments regarding the release of Ovitz.

Hungary Signs Memorandum To Buy Israeli Satellite

TA2904195292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed yesterday between senior representatives of the Hungarian Broadcasting Authority and the Israeli Aircraft Industries for Hungary to purchase an Israeli satellite.

The Hungarians are interested in a communications satellite in order to expand their television broadcasts and to improve their telephone and computer communications. The cost of the satellite is estimated at around $140 million.

Difficulties Expected With Offer to EC

TA3004190392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem still expect difficulties regarding the EC representatives' participation in the discussions on arms control in our region, despite the offer of compromise in principle Israel made today when Foreign Minister David Levi met the EC representative, the Portuguese foreign minister, in Lisbon. That is reported by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik.

The EC foreign ministers' council will discuss Israel's compromise offer tomorrow. According to the offer, Israel will withdraw its opposition to the participation of European representatives in the discussion on arms control, providing that those representatives do not enjoy a status equal to that of the two cosponsors, the United States and Russia, and that they do not intervene on the sensitive issues pertaining to Israel's security.

Third Baraq Missile Test Called 'Successful'

TA0105110392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1040 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] It has just been released that a Baraq missile to intercept sea-to-sea missiles was successfully launched this morning. The Baraq is a sea-to-sea missile being developed jointly by the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] and REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority]. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The Baraq missile is intended to intercept sea-to-sea missiles. The missile was fired as part of a series of tests before the system is handed over to the Navy. The test, the third by the IAI, was termed a success. The missile is due to become operational during 1993. The length of the Baraq is 2.1 meters [m]. It weighs 83 kg, which includes the 22-kg warhead. The Baraq is capable of intercepting targets at a range of between 500 m and 10 km. The Navy plans to deploy the Baraq on its new Saar-5 missile boats being built in the United States. The successful test will permit the Navy to keep the missile project's original timetable.

According to foreign reports, Chile is participating in financing the project and in return its Navy will be outfitted with the Israeli missiles. Other countries are also showing interest in procuring the system being developed by the IAI and REFA'EL.

Afghanistan

Council Announces 'Control Over Situation'

LD3004172392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Statement by the Islamic State of Afghanistan; place and date not given—live or recorded; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks to great Almighty God, the Islamic State of Afghanistan—under the wise leadership of esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Mojahedin Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan—has control over the situation in the country. The Armed Forces and the commanders of the Mojahedin's armed groups belonging to all the jehadi formations in Kabul and all over the country obey the instructions of the mojahedin council and the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The mojahedin council and the Islamic State of Afghanistan assure all the diplomatic corps in Kabul, the employees of the UN organizations and establishments, and other foreigners living in Kabul that it guarantees the maintenance of security and the protection of their life and property based on the Vienna Convention.

'Large Number' of New Council Members Meet

LD3004173892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] A session of the mojahedin council, chaired by esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the mojahedin Council, was convened this afternoon. The session was attended by esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and a large number of members of the 51-man council who have arrived in Kabul thus far.

At the beginning of the session, following recitation of a few verses from the Holy Koran, esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi spoke on the political-military situation in the country and on measures for the urgent prevention of clashes and subversive actions, maintenance of discipline and peace in Kabul city as well as of electricity supplies, and the provision of essential goods. Discussions then were held on these issues and on other primary, important issues in the country. Members of the council presented their views and proposals, and the session adopted necessary decisions.

Measures To 'Restore Islamic Values' Taken

BK3004160592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The first official session of the Islamic interim council, presided by Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, was held in Afghanistan today [30 April]. The council session was continuing a short while ago and discussed, among other things, ways to bring normalcy to the country. The session was also attended by Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who was nominated as the defense minister of the council. Commander Mas'ud, who arrived in the capital last night, called on Professor Mojaddedi this morning. Meanwhile, peace prevailed in the city, except for noise from sporadic gunshots.

The new government has started implementing measures to restore peace and order in the city and steps are being taken to restore Islamic values in daily life. Agency reports said that women wearing Western dress are not being seen in the streets and markets, and two women former ministers, who were going to meet the new leader dressed Western-style, were told to go home and come back appropriately dressed. Government officials have been directed to return government properties, including vehicles, they possessed. If they do not, they will be severely punished in accordance with Islamic laws.

Mojaddedi Interviewed, Questioned on Hekmatyar Role

LD3004141392 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Interview with President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi by correspondent Lindsay Taylor in Kabul on 29 April; from the Channel 4 News program—recorded]

[Text] [Taylor] Now that the fighting has stopped, is there still a role, after what's happened, for Mr. Hekmatyar in your government here?

[Mojaddedi] You see, Mr. Hekmatyar was our brother, and he has shared with us in this struggle these years. We were not expecting that he will do such an action against his people at a time when we are bringing peace and security to this country, but now I think that it's not easy for him to move against this government. We forgive him and we leave it to Almighty, he will decide.

[Taylor] So is the job of prime minister no longer open to him?

[Mojaddedi] That is being discussed with our parties, and later we can answer that.

Gaylani To Quit If Hekmatyar Named Premier

BK2904115092 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—Rifts erupted among the Afghan mojahedin leaders on the future of Afghanistan when Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, chief of the National Islamic Front Afghanistan (NIFA) threatened of quitting the government if Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar was nominated as its Prime Minister.

Pir Gaylani accused Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, chief of his faction Hezb-e Eslami, a culprit who still insisted on bloodshed of innocent people of Afghanistan. He said that it was impossible for him to go with

Golboddin Hekmatyar who was enemy of peace. However Pir Gaylani suggested convening of a meeting of the traditional Loya Jergah for setting up of an interim government.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Pir Gaylani said that he signed the agreement just for the restoration of a peaceful atmosphere in war devasted Afghanistan. He accused Golboddin of working against the wishes of Afghans and pushing them towards another genocide after completion of the Afghan jehad.

The NIFA leader, who is also a close relative of former King Mohammad Zaher Shah, said that convening a meeting of the Afghan Loya Jergah was the best way of solving the Afghanistan issue.

He warned of dire consequences on behalf of NIFA if its proposal was not entertained. He was confident that Loya Jergah reflected the wishes of Afghans.

When asked whether the NIFA had taken other resistance groups into confidence on this proposal, Pir Gaylani said that it was clear from the agreement they had signed on Friday last. He said that all of the resistance groups were agreed on this proposal but they wanted its early implementation.

Referring to the role of former king Mohammad Zahir Shah in the future of Afghanistan, Pir Gaylani said Afghanistan people were to decide his role.

To a question, Pir Gaylani said that he would continue his support for the present leadership of Prof. Mojaddedi.

Reportage on Dostam's Gelam Jam

Accused of Brutalities

LD3004163892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom to Afghanistan in Dari 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan have observed the declared cease-fire in all trenches in Kabul city. According to reports sporadic gunfire has been heard and the Gelam Jam [operational title of Rashid Dostam's Uzbek militia] have looted official work places, shops, and houses of defenseless citizens.

Khoshal, a mojahed belonging to Hezb-e Eslami, told a radio correspondent that the situation in Kabul city is very bad. Almost 300 civilians have been killed in Kabul city's Shah-e Shahid and Karta-e Naw areas [southeast of Kabul city]. It has been reported that the remaining forces of the regime have launched savage attacks against trenches of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan and residential places of the defenseless citizens. Heavy weapons and aircraft have been used in these attacks.

The mojahed Khoshal said that there is battle between those loyal to Hezb and those loyal to Dostam. No one can move because of the Dostam militia. They are far more savage and cruel even than the Russians. They kill whoever they like without asking questions. Regarding the looting in Kabul city, he said that the Gelam Jam militia went in by force into people's homes and violated family honor. They then looted houses and killed anyone who resisted. They have cut the throats of defenseless people in some areas. He added that he had seen the situation in Kabul city with his own eyes. [words indistinct]. The eyewitness account by mojahed Khoshal will be broadcast in his own voice at the end of this news bulletin.

The Message of Freedom Radio's correspondent in Kabul city adds that Kabul city residents are not only [words indistinct] but are surprised at the silence of the jehad Council vis-a-vis the savagery and brutality of the Gelam Jam militias.

Tribes Demand Gelam Jam Withdrawal

LD3004192292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] On Wednesday elders and leaders of tribes and clans of North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] of Pakistan at a news conference demanded the withdrawal of Gelam Jam [Uzbek] militia from the city of Kabul. A report from Peshawar city says that at the news conference which was attended by representatives of Mohmands, Afredis, and Shinwars, they congratulated all Muslims on the freedom of Afghanistan at the beginning. On behalf of the NWFP tribes participating at the news conference, Malek [word indistinct] said that in order to maintain security in Kabul it is necessary that all Gelam Jam militia should withdraw from the city. All Afghan tribes were our guests during the last 13 years and we have served them with pride. We hope, they said, that the mojahedin leaders and Pakistani authorities now (?distinguish) between Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan and the Gelam Jam militias. [words indistinct]

AFP on Rival Factions' Battles'

BK0105031692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0256 GMT 1 May 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, May 1 (AFP)—The nightmare that many Afghans feared came true in Kabul this week. Rival mojahedin factions, each allied with sections of the government military and armed with their Soviet-supplied weapons, battled relentlessly for control of the Afghan capital.

Now in the first days of relative calm, the question is how long will they last.

During the street battles that started Saturday, MiG-21 bombers hit south-central parts of the city, and Soviet tanks and anti- aircraft weapons ploughed gaping holes in suburbs.

There were also the militia—the tough Uzbek fighters that have been the brutal, decisive cutting edge in almost very major battle in Afghanistan in the past four years.

The Uzbeks, headed by 38-year-old General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, are called by many the toughest fighters since the Russian Spetznaz shock troops.

In Kabul they are the front line defence for the three-day-old and still fragile government of 70-year-old Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

"We will discuss the question of sending the militia back," said Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the mojahedin commander who arrived in the capital from the north late Wednesday night.

Mas'ud, speaking to reporters on his first day down from the mountains and valleys of Panjshir in the capital Thursday, also sounded a note of optimism that the worst of the nightmare might be over.

"Everyday the (security) situation is improving," he said.

"Uzbeks bad, Mas'ud good," is a phrase often repeated round Kabul by city dwellers devastated by fears of what they have heard of the Uzbeks.

But just as many acknowledge that without Dostam's men, flown from the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif when the Najibollah regime collapsed last week, Kabul could have been lost to radical fundamentalist Golboddin Hekmatyar.

This reporter, who spent two days in Mazar-e Sharif after Dostam, mojahedin groups and allied government generals revolted against former president Najibollah last month, found that Dostam had by mutual agreement moved his troops out of the city to the airport.

Looting in Mazar-e Sharif was stopped with the help of three summary executions shown on television.

But in Kabul this week, as everyone knew, the situation was different.

In Mazar-e Sharif the fighting was over. There was no major opposition to the coalition, which included both Mas'ud and Hekmatyar factions. In the Afghan capital, until the battle for the city ends, Dostam's fearless Uzbeks are needed. After that, the government will have to find them a place.

Afghans, residents and troops alike, as well as diplomats here, are hoping that worse is not to come.

Diplomats here believe much will depend, not only on the troop strength of Hekmatyar and his determination to oppose Mojaddedi and his old foe Mas'ud, but on the attitude of the new government.

Many of the government troops allied with Hekmatyar, most of them southeastern Pashtuns, appear to have fled the capital. Other Pashtuns are taking their chances with the Mojaddedi government.

But the question of Hekmatyar's troop strength to the south and even in the north is complicated by shifting tribal allegiances and widening ethnic rifts.

"There are so many groups, some neutral in the fight, some which may change allegiance, and a lot of delicate balancing to do even if Hekmatyar decides to stay out of the Kabul alliance and fight it," said one veteran observer.

In Pakistan, a statement issued by Hekmatyar's faction said Thursday his fighters had been ordered to take defensive positions outside residential areas of Kabul "as a disciplined forbearing force in a defensive position on four sides of the city."

The fundamentalist group said it had done this so as not to give the Uzbek militiamen, whom it referred to throughout as "savages," "uncultured" or "cruel," allied with Mas'ud the "pretext of the presence of mojahedin in the city for killing innocent people."

For years, the mojahedin groups have held their own back-and-forth battles for territory behind the "communist-jehad" battle lines in Afghanistan. Now, said one diplomat here, "the war in the countryside has finally come to Kabul."

Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami Members Arrive in Kabul

LD3004174892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Mowlawi (?Arsalan) Ramani, al-Haj Ramatollah Wahedyar, and Mowlawi Gol Mohammad, members of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan] led by Mowlawi Nasrollah Mansur, who are among the members of the 51 member council arrived in Kabul today.

IRNA Reports Another Calm Day in Kabul

LD3004172192 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 30, IRNA—The situation in Kabul today was calm and people appeared in the streets for shopping with more confidence. It is said that state institutions and public service agencies too will resume activities as of Saturday.

With arrival of commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Kabul last night political activities have escalated to reach an overall understanding and restore peace and tranquility.

The 50-member transitional council headed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi held a lengthy discussion behind closed doors Thursday morning in which Hekmatyar's Islamic Party representatives were also said to be present.

The defence minister of Afghan provisional government, and the head of mujahideen's military council, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud told IRNA taday that agreement is going to be reached among all "jihad" groups and the situation in the country would improve day by day.

Any resistance against Kabul's interim government will be considered as "rebellion" and severely encountered, he said.

It is interesting to note that some members of the former regime are directly present in the scene of post-Najib Afghanistan. For example, the former foreign minister 'Abdol Wakil held a news conference today at the presidential compound and in front of the venue of the ongoing discussions among the 50-member council.

He stressed on political independence of the statesmen now in control of Afghanistan and said, "the situation is returning to normal and the Afghan people are awaiting a better future."

Saying that the country is faced with enormous economic difficulties and destruction, he called on the international communities to send aid to the country as soon as possible.

He called himself a mere citizen of Kabul who was ready to help the Islamic government of Afghanistan under any circumstances.

Pro-Hekmatyar Pakistanis Killed Crossing Border

NC3004194792 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 30 (AFP) - An unspecified number of Pakistani Muslim militants have been killed in Afghanistan after crossing the border with radical commander Golboddin Hekmatyar, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN [APP] said Thursday [30 April].

The official agency gave no figures for the number of deaths, saying only that they were civilians who had been sent towards Kabul by "a right-wing" Pakistani party which supported Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami.

The agency was apparently referring to Pakistan's fundamentalist Jamiyat-i Islami Party of Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed.

Ahmed and Hekmatyar, who is normally based in Pakistan, have been closely linked during the Afghan war. The Pakistani press have regularly published announcements of the deaths of Jamiyat-i Islami volunteers killed in Afghanistan during the last 13 years.

The two men, linked to different Muslim groups, had organised demonstrations against the United States and the West during the Gulf war.

The APP report risks provoking new tension between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Ahmad, whose party is still officially a member of the coalition ruling in Islamabad.

PRC President Sends Congratulations to Mojaddedi

LD0105091192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] A message of congratulations has arrived in Kabul from His Excellency Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, addressed to Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the interim jihad council of Afghanistan. It reads as follows:

On behalf of the Government and people of the People's Republic of China and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warm congratulations to your excellency and through you to the interim council and to the people of Afghanistan on your appointment.

China and Afghanistan are friendly neighbors, and a deep traditional friendship exists among our people. I whole-heartedly wish for the success of the people of Afghanistan in their effort to re-establish peace and stability and to rebuild their country. I hope that the friendly relations between China and Afghanistan will continue to develop.

UN Envoy Benon Sevan Congratulates Mojaddedi

LD3004200592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Networ in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The following message of congratulation has arrived in Kabul from His Excellency Benon Sevan, assistant and special envoy of the UN secretary general, addressed to Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the interim jihad council of Afghanistan:

On behalf of the UN secretary general, I express congratulations and best wishes to you and your colleagues in the interim mojahedin council. Regrettably, due to reasons beyond my control, I was not able to attend yesterday's ceremony witnessing the transfer of power from the former regime to your Council. I returned to Islamabad from Tehran only this morning. I will (?leave) for Kabul as soon as possible to express congratulations (?in person). I welcome the declaration of general amnesty by you which is in full conformity with our previous talks on the subject.

I ask for success to you and your colleagues from Almighty God in these difficult days in the history of Afghanistan. As I have said previously, this is the time of pardon and conciliation, the time of reconstruction, and the time of consolidating national unity.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to assure you once again that the United Nations is ready to assist you in your noble efforts toward maintaining national unity, reconstruction, and revitalization of war-stricken Afghanistan. Your Excellency, please accept my (?regards). [Signed] Benon Sevan

India

New Afghan Council Extended Official Recognition

BK3004160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] India has officially recognized the newly-installed mojahedin council as the interim government of Afghanistan. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said New Delhi looks forward to a continous, constructive, and fruitful dialogue with the new authorities in Kabul. He said the Indian ambassador to Afghanistan was received by President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. Mr. Faleiro said India hopes that peace and normalcy will be restored in Afghanistan. The minister reaffirmed that New Delhi has always stood for a sovereign, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan.

'Strong Protest' Lodged Over Sri Lankan Remarks

BK0105085492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Indian high commission in Colombo has lodged a strong protest with the Sri Lankan government over the reported remarks by President Ranasinghe Premadasa recently describing the Indian Peacekeeping Force, IPKF, as an occupation army. The protest note was handed over by the high commissioner, Mr. N.N. Jha, to the Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, yesterday. Mr. Jha pointed out to the Sri Lankan authorities that the president's remarks is not in keeping with the normal relations between the two countries. The Sri Lankan president in his recent speech at Hambantota in southern Sri Lanka had referred to the IPKF as an army of occupation.

Reportage on UAE Presidential Visit; Agreements

Zayid, Venkataraman Address Banquet

BK2904062092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have called for efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region covering South Asia and the Gulf. At a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, in New Delhi last night, the president said such an environment is in the interest of both India and the UAE. Mr. Venkataraman called for strengthening bilateral links and trade and economic cooperation. He said both countries share many common perceptions and interests in the region.

The UAE president expressed the hope that India will play its traditional and positive role for peace and security of the Gulf. The Shaykh said he is confident of the continued support from India to any initiative of stability in the Gulf region. He described the Indian community in the UAE as the best expatriates in his country.

Taxation Agreement Signed

BK2904123292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] India and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today signed an agreement for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion. It was signed by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the visiting UAE minister of finance and industry, Mr. Hamdan Bin-Rashid Al Makhtum. In his discussion with the UAE counterpart, Dr. Manmohan Singh said today's agreement represents a significant milestone in the development of bilateral relations. Dr. Singh invited the business community from the UAE to take full advantage of the liberal economic climate in India and contribute toward greater flow of trade and investment.

In his response, Mr. Makhtum said businessmen in the UAE are interested in creating healthy and friendly business environment in India and are appreciative of the economic reforms. He said today's agreement opens up news opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade and investment.

Rao, Zayid To Boost Cooperation

BK2904161192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A meeting between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan, decided to step up bilateral cooperation. Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said the prime minister, who led the Indian delegation, said the visit of Shaykh Zayid after a gap of nine years assumes significance following dramatic changes the world over. Mr. Rao said the visit will give new impetus for all-round cooperation, particularly specific proposals for joint ventures and investment from the UAE. Shaykh Zayid in his response said that the two countries should mobilize their efforts to strengthen economic cooperation on solid ground.

External Affairs Minister Meets Zayid

BK3004121692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The visiting UAE president, Shaykh Zayid, says security in the Indian subcontinent is of great importance to his country. He held discussions with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in New Delhi yesterday. The Shaykh agreed with India's view that all outstanding issues with Pakistan have to be settled peacefully.

Mr. Faleiro explained to the visiting dignitary India's assessment of the prospects of ongoing West Asia peace talks. He informed the Shaykh that New Delhi has been invited to participate in the meetings of the working groups in the peace process.

UAE President 'Satisfied,' Departs

BK3004162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has said that the purpose of his visit to strengthen relations with India has been realized. He was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi before his departure at the end of his visit to India. The Shaykh was given a ceremonial send off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. He was seen off by the president, Mr. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; and some of his cabinet colleagues.

U.S. Action on Pharmaceuticals 'Unjustified'

BK3004100692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Government today described as totally unjustified and unwarranted the reported U.S. action suspending duty concessions to import of Indian pharmaceuticals. The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, told the Lok Sabha during zero hour that a copy of formal U.S. notification in this regard is yet to be received. He asserted that India will never yield to any pressure and said during the last 10 months government has not departed from its stand on the trade issue.

The reported U.S. presidential action evoked strong protest from all sections in both houses of parliament. In the Lok Sabha, raising the issue Mr. George Fernandez, Janata Dal, and others called for stern action to oppose unequivocally the U.S. quest for domination. Members cutting across party lines said the house should adopt a resolution condemning the U.S. action and sending a clear message that India will never submit to any such pressure. Several members also said that the proposed joint naval exercises with the United States be canceled. A strong demand was also made that India mobilize a collective voice through the Nonaligned Movement and other fora against the American moves for economic hegemony. Responding, Mr. Chidambaram expressed government's readiness to discuss the matter in any form. He said India has always taken firm, fair, and consistent stand. Government has never shown panic or indulged in polemics, he added.

The matter was raised in the Rajya Sabha by Mr. Jogesh Desai, Congress-I, and others through a special mention. Members expressed their serious concern over the U.S. action and demanded an immediate statement from the government.

Indian ambassador to the United States Mr. Abid Hussain has described Washington's partial suspension of duty-free treatment to some imports from India as untimely and wrong. He said in Washington that the move has come as a surprise as the U.S. representatives, Miss. Carla Hills, had earlier made it clear that she was not going to take any action under Special-301 for the present.

Extradition of Union Carbide Chairman Demanded

BK3004145892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Members in the Lok Sabha today made a strong plea for early extradition of the former chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation from the United States to proceed criminal charges against him in the Bhopal gas leak case. Participating in the private members resolution moved by Mr. Satyagopal Mishra, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], members from all sections demanded exemplary punishment to all those responsible for the disaster and adequate compensation to the victims.

Kashmir: 288 Detainees Freed, 14 Militants Killed

BK2804062092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the release of 288 detainees arrested in connection with terrorists activities. The state-level screening committee which met in Srinagar yesterday recommended their release.

Meanwhile, at least 14 militants were killed in separate incidents in Kashmir valley during the last 24 hours. Security forces have also recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the militant hideouts.

'Gang of Kashmiri Militants' Arrested in Delhi

BK3004131692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Delhi police today apprehended a gang of Kashmiri militants in the capital. The police have recovered several photographs taken by the group of strategic locations and vital installations. Police say the militants belong to the Ikhwanul Muslimeen outfit and were ostensibly carrying on carpet business in New Delhi.

Employees' Strike Paralyzes Banking Operations

BK3004101492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Banking operations in the country were almost paralyzed today [30 April] as the employees went on a day's strike demanding pension and other retirment benefits. In Delhi, most counters and all banks, including the Reserve Bank of India, remained unmanned. Similar reports have come in from our correspondents from various states, including Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tripura, Rajasthan, Goa, and Sikkim.

The government on Tuesday had ruled out grant of pension as a third retirement benefit. A spokesman of the Finance Ministry said it was not possible for the government to agree to this demand because of the financial liabilities involved.

Finance Minister Announces Tax Concessions

BK3004144092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The finance minister has announced concessions to income tax payers and industry totalling 602 crore rupees. Moving the finance bill for the year 1992-93, Dr. Manmohan Singh restored the deduction under Section 80-L with the ceiling of 7,000 rupees. The scope of Section 88 has also been enlarged to include schemes which are under sections 80-CCA and 80-CCB. And the ceiling under Section 88 has been fixed at 60,000, an increase of 10,000 rupees. The capital gains tax rate for firms and associations has been to reduced to 30 percent. Venture capital companies will bear a concessional rate of 20 percent. In respect of partnership firms, a 100 percent deduction of partner salary is now allowed from the firm's income upto a limit of 50,000 rupees.

The indirect tax concessions announced include the restoration of a concessional 95 percent import duty on most specified drug intermediaries. The electronics industry will now pay reduced import duty on specified raw materials and parts. The duty on raw materials has been brought down to 40 percent and piece parts to 60 percent. The import of machinery used for manufacture of fly ash and building components has been exempted from tax. The export duty on finished leather has been reduced to five percent and that on unpolished granite to seven percent.

The finance minister increased import duty on certain items to protect domestic industries. The import duty on computers and computer peripherals barring those on a certified list has been increased to the ceiling of a 110 percent from 75 percent. The import of ball and roller bearings will now carry specific rates of duty instead of the ceiling of a 110 percent. Dr. Manmohan Singh reduced the import duty on the gold allowed to be brought in by Indians and NRI's [non-resident Indians] as part of their baggage to make smuggling even more unremunerative. The duty has been reduced to 220 rupees from 450 rupees per 10 grams.

Iran

Velayati Interviewed on Policy Toward Afghanistan

LD0105012392 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1550 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati with unidentified announcer in the Tehran studio—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] [passage omitted]

Mr. Velayati, I thank you for your participation in this program. If you will allow me, I will ask my first question, which concerns the latest situation in Afghanistan and the activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in that regard.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We are happy that finally after years of effort and jehad, the Muslim people of Afghanistan managed to topple the government of Taghut [idols] in that country. That is a great victory for them and also for all Muslims, and we congratulate them this victory.

During the past years, particularly since the occupation of Afghanistan by the forces of the former Soviet Union, the IRI had always made the greatest efforts to help and support the people and mojahedin of Afghanistan. I should mention that the IRI also did that at a high cost, the hosting of around 2 million Afghan refugees. It also had to move within a principled framework along its position toward the issue of Afghanistan and to continue its humanitarian support for the people and the mojahedin of Afghanistan over a number of years. Those were among the efforts of the IRI in that regard.

One of the high-ranking officials of the former Soviet Union, during a formal meeting with me, in response to my protest to him about the indiscriminate military aid they used to give to the Iraqi Government, allowing it to bombard our cities and attack them with missiles, he told me: You stop supporting the Afghan mojahedin, and we will stop our military aid to the Iraqi regime. He told me that quite openly and during a formal session. But we remained and moved within the framework of our principled positions during those difficult years, and now the people of Iran can hold their heads high that they remained beside and supported the people of Afghanistan during those difficult days of resistance. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. Velayati, the IRI was one of the first countries that recognized the interim Government of Afghanistan as well as the 51-member council. In your view, with due regard to the current problems and difficulties, what should the council's priorities be?

[Velayati] Of course, the council and people of Afghanistan know their own affairs better than others. But if they ask us for recommendations, if they seek our views as a country that has had a revolution for years and at present is passing through its five-year plan to rebuild the country, then we will say that jehad is an important and difficult endeavor; fortunately, the people of Afghanistan and mojahedin accomplished that task well.

However, years of occupation and war have left behind such a devastation throughout Afghanistan that reconstruction of that country now needs billions of dollars in funds. More important than that, it also needs domestic cohesion.

It is certain that the most important factor that enabled the people of Afghanistan to achieve their jehad was their unanimity. Of course, they might well have had differences of views—that is not unexpected. But they were all united in one objective; that was the need to struggle against the foreign enemy who had occupied the Islamic country. They had unanimity in that objective and happily they achieved victory.

To engage in jehad to defeat the enemy is a difficult endeavor; more difficult than the endeavor to rebuild the country after defeating the foreign enemies. If they needed to have unanimity to defeat the foreign enemy, then they need unanimity even more for rebuilding the country.

Therefore, all the existing strata and tribes in Afghanistan must participate in that government. If there exists cooperation among all the strata and tribes—whether Pashtun or Tajik, Sunni or Shiite, and other tribes—then they will be able to rebuild their country. Otherwise, one finds it difficult to have an optimistic assessment of the future.

We hope that experience gained through years of jehad and the campaign against foreigners has already accorded to them the maturity and adroitness necessary to set up, God willing, a broad-based government in which justice is observed in the participation of various groups and tribes in power. Our information regarding members of the council and the heads of different groups shows that they are basically experienced individuals and have intelligence and adroitness. We hope they succeed in overcoming difficulties.

[Announcer] Alongside the 51-member council plan, another plan, which is still being discussed in political and news circles, is the UN secretary general's plan, which, despite the cancellation of its major part, its fourth article—that is the election issue—still holds its position. [passage omitted]

Considering the recent visit by Mr. Butrus Ghali to our country and the new developments in the arena of Afghanistan; also considering the UN's former activity, which took place within the framework of the UN secretary general's five-point plan, it can almost be said that the plan has lost its usefulness, its effectiveness. What do you think the UN should do in settling the Afghan crisis?

[Velayati] Of course, during the occupation years and crisis in Afghanistan, the UN offered various proposals and plans. The last plan was the one that was mooted last year [Persian year started on 21 March 1992] by Mr. Perez de Cuellar. As you pointed out, developments in Afghanistan took a different turn so that it cannot be said that it is the UN plan that is being implemented. But when Mr. Butrus Ghali was in Tehran, he told me: We are not particular about our own plan; on the contrary, we are flexible. Any effort, any plan that results in the establishment of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan—while maintaining its territorial integrity and restoring popular government—will be welcomed by us. He faced the issue very openly. And we support any efforts made in this regard.

Now, we also believe that the UN has not ended its duty, but it is—in a manner of speaking—at the beginning of a difficult road for restoring peace, security, and reconstruction to Afghanistan. Of course, the people of Afghanistan have shown that they have high national determination and firm resolve for safeguarding their country. But they definitely need outside help. It is a duty of the United Nations, by directing the rich countries' aid—specifically the industrialized UN member states that have the resources for financial and technical aid...[Velayati rephrases] It is the duty of the UN to put such aid in a proper channel and direct it toward the interests of the Aghan people and not to abandon the Afghan people to their fate at such a time. This is because economic problems, failure to reconstruct, and confronting hardships resulting from the destruction during the occupation and war may, God forbid, bring internal insecurity in their wake. This is neither in the interest of the Afghan people nor that of the region, nor world peace. Considering that in all affairs prevention is cheaper as well as more certain and useful than cure, the United Nations must prevent any incident before it occurs and give assistance so that, God willing, the Afghan people can stand on their own feet and maintain the independence they have achieved and reconstruct their country.

[Announcer] Mr. Velayati, as the last question, regarding some regional states, and even some secondary, non-regional states that have an indirect role. These days, we see that these have assumed a primary role and brand themselves direct parties to the issue. Is this attitude acceptable by the IRI?

[Velayati] Basic issues in the world of politics cannot be resolved by haste and superficial action. The influence of one state on another, or the establishment of very close friendly ties between states requires a long-term background and radical, genuine and effective factors. It cannot be by command. The people of Afghanistan at the moment need sincere assistance from other states more than anything else to reconstruct their country. This is rather than having their country become the scene of banal rivalries between those who have come late and wish to go soon. The people of Afghanistan will be left with their problems and their natural ties with their neighboring states—with which they have historical, religious, ethnic, and linguistic common grounds. [passage omitted]

Urges Unity Among Afghan Groups

LD3004161292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Minister for Foreign Affairs Velayati participated today in the roundtable program of the second television network. He expressed satisfaction about the victory of the Muslim people of Afghanistan against the taghut [idols] and considered the liberation of Afghanistan to be a victory for all Muslims. Mr. Velayati also said: During the occupation years in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not stint in any way in assisting and supporting the tyrannized people of that country and even paid a high price for this act.

Referring to the 51-member interim Afghan mojahedin council and the priorities of that council, Velayati said:

The council and the people of Afghanistan are aware of their task, but our view, as a state experienced in revolution and reconstruction, is that success in reconstruction needs solidarity and unity of word.

Stressing the need for the participation of all the strata and ethnic groups—including Pashtuns, Tajiks, Sunnis, and Shiites—in a future Afghan government, he noted the UN role in this regard and said: During the occupation years in the crisis, the United Nations offered various peace plans. And Mr. Butrus Ghali also recently proposed a five-point plan on Afghanistan. With the victory of the Afghan people, such plans have lost their usefulness [karbord] and in Tehran the UN secretary general commented flexibly about his plan, saying that he will welcome any endeavor that results in establishing peace in that country. But it must be said that the UN role does not end with the victory of the Afghan people.

Referring to the Afghan people's need for UN assistance, Mr. Velayati stressed: That organization can direct the rich countries' aid for the Afghan people through a proper channel.

Ambassador to Kuwait on Afghan Conflict, Iraq

PM3004145092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 92 p 4

[Hamad al-Jasir report: "Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Tells AL-HAYAH: We Did Not Send Forces to Afghanistan; West Wants Saddam Regime To Continue"]

[Text] Kuwait—Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi has denied any intervention by his country in the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. He indicated that Tehran was dealing with each Mojahedin faction "according to its importance and the size of its role in Afghanistan's political balance." He emphasized that the press reports that Iran has sent "Revolutionary Guard" forces to Afghanistan were unfounded.

Sadeqi told AL-HAYAH that Iran's position on Gulf security is that it is the responsibility of the Gulf states "and that the key to resolving the region's problems comes from within the region, not from outside." He added: "We believe that foreigners want to control the region, but this would harm all its peoples."

He emphasized that the talk about Iranian measures against Arab citizens in Abu Musa island "is a complete lie and without foundation." He said that his country still adheres to the agreement on the island concluded with al-Shariqah emirate in 1971.

He spoke about the situation in Iraq, saying that Iran played no part in the risings that erupted in the North and South of the country after the Gulf war. "If the region's states had supported those risings—at least politically—they would have achieved their aims." He expressed his belief that the United States "wanted the Iraqi regime to succeed in suppressing those risings, which is why it allowed it to use its helicopters after the cease-fire. We presume that the West granted Iraq some breathing space so that the Iraqi Ba'th Party would not collapse and that the West wants (President) Saddam Husayn's regime to continue and does not favor an alternative government, because others are an unknown quantity and Saddam remains the preferred option."

He stressed that Iran would repeat its attacks on Iraqi territory if operations by Mojahedin-e Khalq fighters continue against Iranian territory.

With regard to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, he said: "We are not optimistic about their future (...). The Israelis pursue aims other than peace. Besides, we do not approve of those negotiations in the first place. This, because we believe that Israel's existence is illegitimate. There are major differences on this issue between Iran and the Arab states in particular and the world states in general. Iran rejects something called Israel."

He spoke about the issue of the Kuwaiti civilian planes which Iraq seized during the occupation and then moved to Iran. He said: "Frankly, I do not understand why those planes are still in Iran instead of Kuwait. We told the Kuwaiti brothers our position on the return of the planes back in the early days of the liberation. We asked them to send a team to receive their the planes. In return for that we merely asked for the expenses connected with the planes alone, such as those for maintenance and other services (...). We were very honest with the Kuwaiti brothers. We did not neglect their planes, nor did we claim that they were unusable, as the Iraqis did with us after they accepted reconciliation. They presented us with burned-out wrecks and said that they were our civilian planes that turned to them. We are surprised that the Kuwaiti Government is leasing planes for its air fleet and not hastening to receive its own aircraft."

Iran Said To Have 'At Least' 2 Kazakh Warheads

AU3004112792 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] London, April 30 (AFP)—Iran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as missing from the newly independent former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, THE EUROPEAN newspaper said Thursday.

The information was contained in a top-secret report sent by the new Russian intelligence service to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the paper said.

The document, a copy of which had been shown to THE EUROPEAN, disclosed that several nuclear warheads vanished from the Semipalatinsk nuclear base, closed by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the beginning of the year. It said two of the nuclear weapons were smuggled across the border from Kazhakstan into Iran last year and were now under the control of Reza Amrollahi, head of the Iranian Organisation for Atomic Energy.

The fact that Amrollahi was also in charge of recruiting former Soviet atomic scientists had sharpened Western anxiety over Iran's efforts to build an "Islamic bomb", THE EUROPEAN said.

It said intelligence sources in Europe, particularly in Germany and France, believed that Nazarbayev was behind the secret transfer of the nuclear weapons to Iran, exchanging them for petrol or hard cash for the republic, which was facing with mounting economic chaos.

The Russian report to the CIA disclosed that a third nuclear weapon, which went missing had not yet been traced and was believed by Russian secret services to be somewhere in the Middle East, the newspaper said.

The report also revealed that a number of missiles were transferred to Iran, although it doubted they were nuclear and were probably conventional Scud-type missiles, with a 300-km range. The missing warheads were almost certainly nuclear shells, with an explosive power of between two and five kilotons and can be fired over a distance of up to 50 kilometres (30 miles).

The acquisition of nuclear weapons did not necessarily give Iran an immediate nuclear capability, since they would be protected by special codes, the newspaper said.

But the Iranians had demonstrated in their eight-year war against Iraq that they were expert copiers and cannibalisers of weapons, and they were considered well capable of taking the nuclear warheads apart and copying them, THE EUROPEAN said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ethiopian Minister Discuss Ties

LD0105090792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Hassen ad Abdelah, minister of tea, coffee and state-owned farms of Ethiopia. He is carrying a message from Mr. Zenawi Meles, president of Ethiopia.

Thanking the president of Ethiopia for his message at the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the long-standing relations between the two countries and said: Because the Islamic Republic of Iran has respect for the people of Ethiopia and, considering that country's geographic position, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes efforts to expand bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields. We see no obstacles to that.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Hassen ad Abdelah presented the message of his country's president and submitted a report on Ethiopia's political and economic developments and called for the expansion and deepening of political and economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

266 Candidates Contest 133 Seats in Second Round

LD3004204092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The country's Election Headquarters announced: With regard to the fact that the election in the constituency of Aligudarz has been declared null and void [by the Council of Guardians], and as the validity of elections in Miando'ab has not been declared so far, only 266 candidates will run for 133 seats in the second round of the Majles elections.

'Victory-3' Naval Exercises Continue Into 6th Day

LD3004161192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The sixth day of the large-scale naval Victory-3 exercises continued today with the deployment of fighter-bombers, destroyers, missile-launching frigates, speedboats, and assault and antisubmarine helicopters of the Iranian armed forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

At this stage in the exercises, which aims to foil the hypothetical enemy's penetration of the strategic Straits of Hormuz region, the brave men of Islam's army embarked on destroying the naval and flight units of the hypothetical enemy after the latter crossed international maritime regions and entered the Straits of Hormuz. The marines and parachute forces were deployed to attack the positions of the hypothetical enemy and to prevent it from entering the Straits of Hormuz. After routing the enemy positions, they established the necessary security in the Straits of Hormuz, the deep blue waters of the Persian Gulf regions, and the Sea of Oman.

Substantial Oil Reserves Found in Gulf

LD2904225592 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Gachsaran (Khuzestan), April 29, IRNA—Noticeable reserves of high quality light oil have been found during experimental drilling in the huge Southern Pars Gas Field in the Persian Gulf, an informed source at the National Iranian Oil Company told IRNA today.

He said based on estimates, gas reserves in the region are about 100 trillion cubic feet, of which 80 trillion cubic feet can be tapped.

The total volume of gas-crude oil mix at the Pars Field is between 2.5 and 3 billion barrels and on the basis of tests conducted each one million cubic foot of gas produced would yield between 35 to 40 barrels of oil, he added.

Each gas well is expected to yield an average of 50 million cubic feet in addition to 1,700 to 2,000 barrels of gas-crude oil mix.

The Southern Pars Gas Field lies in Islamic Republic of Iran's waters in the Persian Gulf. Presently it yields about 750 thousand barrels of oil per day which is transfered to the "Kharg" Island terminal for export.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on 'Massacre' of Muslims, Reprisals

LTTE 'Hacked To Death' 50 Villagers

BK2904094092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] In Sri Lanka, suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants hacked to death more than 50 persons in a village in the northeastern country late last night. Official sources said in Colombo that the militants more than 12 in number, carrying both automatic and sharp-edged weapons attacked the Muslim village of Alinchipattana, killing most of the victims in their sleep. The dead included women and children. Fourteen persons were also seriously injured.

Ministers Travel to Scene of 'Massacre'

BK2904125692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists last night attacked a village called Alinchipattana in (Welikandya) town. They had killed 50 people; 17 injured persons have been taken to the Polonnaruwa Hospital. Minister of Land, Irrigation and Mahaweli Development Gamini Athukorale, Minister of Trade and Commerce A.R. Mansoor, and Minister of State for Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs A.H.M. Azwer proceeded to the scene of massacre on the directions of the president. A Defense Ministry release says the president has instructed the ministers to provide immediate assistance to the affected families and tighten security in the area.

56 Tamils Killed in Reprisal

BK2904170292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1656 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Colombo, April 29 (AFP)—Tamil rebels rampaged through a Muslim village Wednesday, killing 59 civilians and triggering equally brutal reprisals that left 56 Tamils dead, the official LANKAPUVATH NEWS AGENCY said.

A local policeman blamed 25 male and female militants from the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), for the pre-dawn massacre of Muslims at Alinchipathana village in Sri Lanka's northeast.

"The terrorists dressed in military style uniforms went from house to house, pulled out people and began cutting and chopping them," a survivor, Sainoor Abdeen, told reporters in the area.

He saw his sister-in-law and her infant cut with swords and he said he managed to escape the carnage by running into the jungle with his wife.

Within hours, enraged Muslim gunmen stormed two neighboring Tamil villages and began attacking civilians in what appeared to be a vengeful attempt to match the numbers of Muslims killed, a local official said.

"Troops have now moved in and are in the process of recovering bodies. The revenge attack has been as bad as the earlier one," the official said.

He said several infants were among the Tamil dead, who were slain by a rampaging crowd using shotguns and a wide variety of sharp objects.

Earlier, another regional official said some 36 Tamils who escaped with injuries were rushed to the main hospital in Polonnaruwa where some 38 Muslims, including 14 children wounded in the rebel attack, were already being treated.

Hospital sources said the Muslim victims included 16 young boys and girls, 17 infants and eight women. There was no immediate breakdown for the Tamil casualties.

Meanwhile, Tamil and Muslim politicians called for restraint and urged local people not to be provoked by the upsurge in violence in the multiethnic eastern region.

The Tamil militants beheaded several men and mutilated the bodies of the others, including several children dragged out of their beds as they slept, the police spokesman said.

"Numerically and in terms of brutality, this is the worst attack (on Muslims) this year. Some people were forced to watch others being cut up," chief military spokesman Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told AFP.

Top army commanders and three government ministers rushed to the area to coordinate security arrangements and ensure assistance to the victims and their next of kin, officials said.

The LTTE's arch rival, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which is a mainstream Tamil party, blamed the Tigers for starting the fresh wave of violence and urged people not to be provoked.

A Muslim leader, Mohamad Ashraff, condemned the massacre and said: "This once again proves that these fellows (LTTE militants) are an outrageous fascist force."

Suspected LTTE rebels mowed down more than 200 Muslim devotees at two mosques in the eastern coastal regions of Kathankudy and Eravur in August 1990 and

were also accused of killing 25 Sinhalese bus passengers, members of the country's dominant ethnic group, on April 10.

In the past three months, several settlers from the region were kidnapped by Tiger guerrillas but some managed to escape, officials said.

Thousands have died in the LTTE-led campaign for a separate Tamil state in the northeast.

Security Forces Kill LTTE Members in Mannar

BK3004113892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] About 50 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were reported killed at Velan Kulam and (Skandafarm) in the Mannar District in a security forces operation against the Tigers. This was reported by LANKAPUVATH yesterday. A continuous curfew is in force in the Mannar District.

LTTE Intelligence Chief, Others Killed in East

BK2804113692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Government troops assisted by Tamil militants opposed to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] shot dead the Tiger intelligence chief in the Batticaloa district. Nidhi Alias Rasayan Nidhiayanathan was also described as a former correspondent of the Colombo-based Tamil language national newspaper VEERAKESARI. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Balamahindran, another terrorist, was also killed in the ambush at (Kanakkuda), 5 miles south of Batticaloa, following a tip-off from the public.

Meanwhile, latest reports from Weli Oya state that 20 terrorists were killed or seriously wounded during the abortive attack on security forces' detachment at Kokkuttoduvai, Kokkilai on Saturday. The bodies of six terrorists, along with an AK-47, AK-56, and AK-88 rifles were also found as the dust settled on the battlefield.

Buddhist Delegation Offers LTTE Peace Package

BK2504140892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a delegation of Buddhist monks, now in Jaffna, had offered a peace package to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for resolving the ethnic problem. A 10-member delegation held talks with senior leaders of the militant outfit. An agency report says the peace package includes the merge of north and east provinces for three years to be followed by a referendum.

LTTE Rejects Plan

BK2604162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has rejected the peace plan of the Buddhist monks to end the ethnic violence in the island-nation. The 13-point peace plan was submitted by a delegation of Buddhist monks on Friday in Jaffna to the deputy leader of LTTE during their talks to bring peace in the country.

Tamil Leader on Indian Help in 'Ethnic Problem'

BK2604131092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] A prominent Sri Lankan Tamil leader has said Colombo will have to take the help of India if it fails to resolve the ethnic problem. Addressing a meeting in Colombo, the All Ceylon Tamil Congress leader, Mr. Ponnambalam, said the Indian-Sri Lankan agreement is a law of the island-nation and Colombo should stand by it. He said any solution to the ethnic problem can never be implemented without the participation of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. He, however, regretted that the past performance of the LTTE shows that it may not honor its word.